

the Hippo

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BEST OF
2011

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FOR DETAILS ON
HOW TO VOTE

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 2, 2011

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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BY FRED BRAMANTE

GRANITE VIEWS

Transform teacher pay



Teachers are paid regardless of whether or not their students actually learn. This practice cannot be allowed to continue.

It's been nearly six years since the New Hampshire State Board of Education changed state regulations mandating that credit toward graduation would move to a demonstration of mastery of competencies (what students should know and be able to do) and away from credit based on sitting in classrooms for 180 days. So, how come school looks pretty much the same, including the 180 days?

The reason is pretty simple. Although the regulations changed, other aspects of our education system have not been aligned to deliver a mastery-based model and, in fact, are still stuck in the anachronistic, time-based (180 day) approach. A major component of our outdated educational system is the way we pay our teachers.

We pay our teachers based on the 180-day model. This system was created in 1906, in large part to establish a template for how to pay teachers. The model was never designed to bring students to mastery. The concept was, if teachers teach a full schedule for 180 days, they are considered a full-time teacher and paid according to a standardized schedule. In a real sense, the system was designed to discriminate, to sort out which students were seen to be smart enough to go to college and, subsequently, to send the other students into the military or the workforce. I don't even want to contemplate the often cruel consequences of the thinking that went into shaping a simplistic way to pay teachers. I just want it to go away as soon as possible.

The beautiful promise of the competency-based model, where every student is an engaged and successful learner, will become evident to our citizens, especially our students, when other aspects of the time-based approach are relegated to history books.

In order to transform the system, to bring education into the 21st century, the elements of a new, competency-based model must replace the old. This includes a ceasing of the practice of paying teachers for time spent and replacing it with paying teachers to help students master required competencies.

Other aspects of the time-based approach include extra pay for years of service and number of degrees. There has been decades of research on whether or not these factors have a clear impact on student performance. The jury has been in for a long time. These factors have little to do with student performance. So why do we keep spending fortunes on measures that don't measure up?

We must put an end to this pay-for-time model. We've already changed the state regulations to a mastery-of-competencies model. It hasn't become evident to all stakeholders because we haven't aligned the rest of the system to actualize a competency-based system. So let's align the rest of the pieces and bring public education into the 21st century, including how we pay our teachers.

Good news from Publisher Jody Reese: Several recent reports say that companies, sitting on trillions in profit, will start to hire again, and that has some economists optimistic that the national unemployment rate will drop to 8 percent by the end of the year (it's about 5 percent in New Hampshire).



12 Fish on ice

Fishing isn't just a summer activity. Jeff Muciarone takes us out on the (frozen) water for a little ice fishing.

Also on the cover: It's time to vote! The ballots for Hippo's Best of 2011 readers' poll will be available online (www.hippopress.com) in February. Vote for your favorite restaurant, hair stylist and more. See details on page 40.

In the final Look Good Feel Great section (starting on page 15), we continue on the outdoor activities theme and look at more winter sports — triathlons, snowshoeing, ice climbing and hockey (OK, not always outside but it's cold in there).

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JANUARY 2011

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Monday, February 7, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Following a gluten-free diet can often be challenging. It is important to consume gluten-free whole grains for your continued good health. Join our registered dietitians and our chef as you sample and learn how to prepare a variety of gluten-free grains in several recipes. Fee: \$10

Intuitive Eating

Thursday, February 17, 6:30 to 8:00 pm

This interactive seminar teaches a non-dieting approach to healthful eating. Participants will learn how to identify hunger symptoms, fullness and emotional eating. Participants will also learn to develop skills on how to fuel the body by listening to its cues, rather than by dieting. **FREE!**

A Healthier You

Saturday, February 19, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Join us for a day of FREE health screenings! Take part in blood pressure screenings, bone density screenings, BMI, blood glucose monitoring and much more! Find out where your numbers are and how you can put your best foot forward for a healthier you. You must pre-register to attend. **FREE!**

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HEART-SAVING MEASURES

RIGHT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD Heart disease affects almost 18 million Americans. Gregg Manning knows this all too well.

It was late on Super Bowl Sunday last February when Gregg, a 37-year-old husband and father from Amherst, experienced chest discomfort and went to the St. Joseph Hospital emergency department. There, the doctors ordered an EKG to look for problems with the electrical activity of his heart and discovered that Gregg had a life-threatening blockage.

Gregg was quickly admitted under the care of Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Craig Berry. During a minimally invasive procedure called a heart catheterization, a blocked artery causing Gregg's chest discomfort was identified. In a procedure called an angioplasty, Dr. Berry used state-of-the-art imaging equipment to guide a balloon-tipped catheter through an artery in Gregg's groin up to his heart. He then carefully inflated and deflated the balloon to open the blockage. He finished by placing a permanent stent (self-expanding metal mesh tube) to keep the newly opened artery from closing, effectively giving Gregg a new lease on life.

After his angioplasty, Gregg felt better than he had in ages, though he still had work ahead of him to improve the condition of his heart. Gregg was referred to a St. Joseph Hospital nutritionist, who taught him about which foods can help or harm his heart. Since his wife prepares most of their meals, she attended the meetings with Gregg, and together they have adopted a healthier diet along with an exercise regimen in their household. Thanks to these healthy lifestyle changes, Gregg has lost some weight and says he now feels better than ever.

Gregg is just one of the many patients who have experienced superior care at St. Joseph Hospital's Cardiovascular and Diabetes Center. He feels grateful to have survived his ordeal and found it very comforting to have an excellent cardiovascular facility so close to his home. For more information about St. Joseph Hospital's Cardiovascular and Diabetes Center, please call (603) 595.3971 or visit www.stjosephhospital.com.



ask the doctor

Donald Reape, MD
SJ Internal Medicine-Riverside

What are the symptoms of a heart attack?

Many people experience the common, well-known signs of a heart attack; however, "some people may experience other symptoms that aren't as widely known," says Donald Reape, MD, SJ Internal Medicine-Riverside. "Confusion about symptoms can result in delay of seeking treatment."

The following are the most common warning signs of a heart attack:

- A crushing, squeezing or burning pain, pressure or fullness in the center of the chest. The pain may radiate to the neck, one or both arms, the shoulders or the jaw.
- Shortness of breath, dizziness, nausea, chills, sweating or weak pulse.
- Cold and clammy skin, gray pallor or an appearance of severe illness.
- Fainting

However, some people may experience more uncommon symptoms such as:

- Pain, shortness of breath or fatigue
- Dull ache
- Right-side chest discomfort
- Vomiting
- Throat discomfort
- Indigestion

Every second counts; call 9 1 1 immediately if you experience any of these symptoms. It's vital to get help at the first sign of a heart attack, so don't wait!

Dr. Donald Reape practices at SJ Internal Medicine-Riverside, located at 17 Riverside Street, Suite 202 in Nashua. The practice is currently accepting new patients. To learn more about the practice, visit www.sjinternalmedicine.com or to make an appointment, please call the office at (603) 595.3614.



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NEWS & NOTES

News in Brief

• **Kimball elected state GOP leader:** Jack Kimball, who lost to John Stephen in the GOP primary for governor last year, was elected this past weekend to serve as state GOP chairman. He succeeds former governor John Sununu. Kimball, who has been active with the tea party movement, beat Juliana Bergeron, whom Sununu had endorsed, by about 20 votes. The Dover resident chose former congressional candidate Jennifer Horn to head his transition team this week, according to a report by politic scoop.wmur.com. Kimball built Great Bay Facility Maintenance Service into a million-dollar company. He has limited political experience, as his first foray into the political world was last year when he ran for governor. Sununu called for unity in his remarks at the meeting.

• **Shaheen wants business program supported:** U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen criticized Congress's failure to reauthorize a small business innovation program in January. She said in a press release she would work to secure the program as a member of the Senate Committee on Small Business. Shaheen recently toured Airex Corporation, a manufacturing and engineering firm in Somersworth that has benefited from the program. The program allows small companies to compete for federal research and development dollars. Congress failed to pass a long-term reauthorization of the program and is instead operating under a short-term extension.



Jack Kimball

• **NH exporting more:** New Hampshire had the greatest rate of increase in export sales among all states during 2010. The state exceeded its all-time annual export sales record 11 months into last year, according to the New Hampshire Export Review, which is released by the New Hampshire International Trade Resource Center. Total exports had reached \$3.9 billion. The prior record was \$3.7 billion in 2008. The numbers for 2010 represent a 40-percent increase compared to the same period in 2009. The Review revealed that 2,200 companies in the state export goods or services, most of which are companies with fewer than 500 employees. Mexico is the state's primary trading partner, according to a press release from the Resource Center. Canada is second.

• **Lynch to lead trade mission to Quebec:** Gov. John Lynch will lead a trade mission to Canada in April that includes state economic development officials and New Hampshire

"I find this another frustrating example of Washington politics," Shaheen said in a statement. She added that the program has bipartisan support and a proven track record. The program was created in legislation authored by Sen. Warren Rudman in 1982.

businesses. The mission will focus on matching businesses in New Hampshire with businesses in Quebec, according to a state press release. Lynch will meet with Quebec Premier Jean Charest. State officials and businesses will have the opportunity to meet with provincial officials, connect with business and industry groups and meet with individual businesses. Cross-border sales with Canada have increased by 20 percent in the last year, the release said. Interested businesses can contact Dawn Wivell, director of the International Trade Resource Center, at dawn.wivell@dred.state.nh.us.

• **Lynch appoints IT leader:** Lynch recently nominated Bill Rogers to serve as commissioner of the Department of Information Technology. Rogers, a Dover resident, must be confirmed by the Executive Council. He is the chief information officer and managing director at Piscataqua Partners, a business advisory firm in Portsmouth, and has more than 30 years' experience in information technology. The legislature created the position in 2008 but has not approved its salary, a state press release said. The nomination is being made on an interim basis. If the Council approves Rogers and a salary, Lynch would nominate Rogers for a full term, which would also need Council approval.

• **Senate passes four bills:** The state Senate passed four bills last week dedicated to issues varying from collective bargaining and police commissions to warrant articles and duties of tax collectors. Senate President Peter Bragdon, R-Milford, said the budget and education fund-

ing would require much attention, but he said the Senate is also dedicated to giving local officials control of their communities, according to a Senate press release. Along with eliminating the automatic continuation for public employee collective bargaining agreements, the Senate passed legislation that would allow the Town of Hooksett to rescind its police commission through a warrant article and increased the amount of receipts tax collectors can accumulate before having to remit the money to their community treasurer.

• **Group wants bobcats protected:** While the state Fish and Game Department, working with UNH, is trying to determine how many bobcats live in the state and where, some are concerned that the state will create a trapping or hunting season on bobcats. There has been no open hunting or trapping on bobcats here in more than two decades. A movement under way would have the state legislature declare bobcats a non-game species, which would protect them from being trapped or hunted for recreation, according to Suzanne Fournier, coordinator for Speaking for Animals in NH. Fish and Game biologist Patrick Tate said earlier this month the Department has not discussed any management of the species, though it could come up once the study is completed. Visit www.care2.com/causes/environment/blog/bobcats-increase-could-lead-to-less-protection-activist-spotlight/ to see a petition to continue the hunting and trapping moratorium on bobcats. For more on the study, visit mlitvaitis.unh.edu/Research/BobcatWeb/bobcats.htm.

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New networking group for social services professionals

Doreen Boutin, embarking on a new career in the social services realm, couldn't find a networking group specific to that field.

"I'm trying to find a specific niche of people in nonprofits and mental health, social services," she said. "I'm just not finding that segment there."

So she started her own networking group, Social Services NH Networking, for people working in social services or the nonprofit community.

She was a member of the Manchester Young Professionals Network, which she had only good things to say about. She had worked as a committee member for MYPN and she had spent her career previously in marketing.

Boutin, now 40, said most of MYPN's members were in their 20s and 30s. Not that the organization doesn't welcome people her age and older — it does — but she felt the fit wasn't right, she said. MYPN provides a great outlet for general networking, but for a specific career field, like social services, Boutin felt there was a need.

Boutin went from her career in marketing to being unemployed and then switching careers.

"I was finding a hard time networking for those people," Boutin said. "That's how the idea came about."

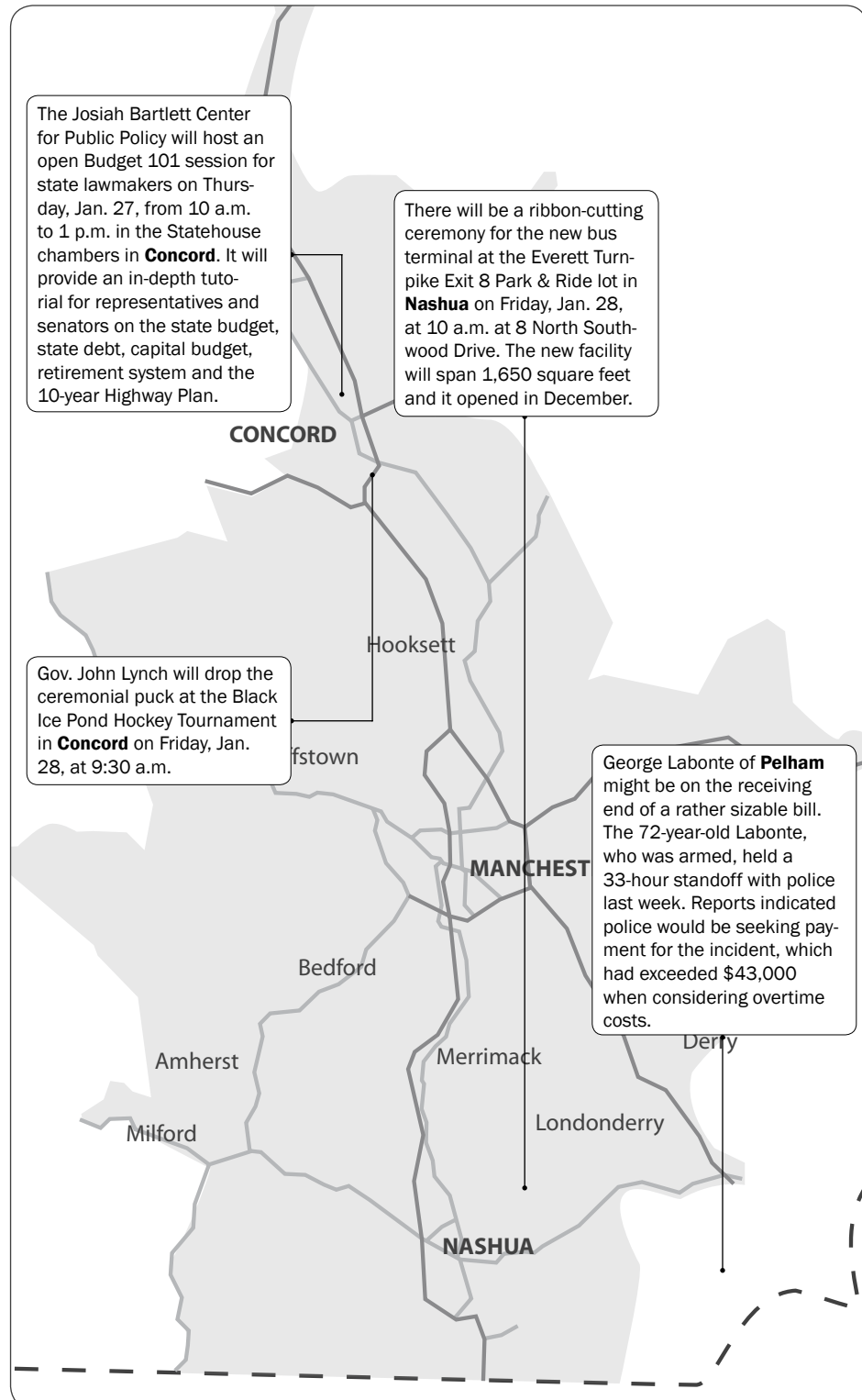
The organization is in its beginning stages, but the website, www.ssnhn.org, is up and running, as are related Twitter and Facebook accounts. Eventually she'd like to make it a 501(c)3. She's basing the organization in Manchester but she said she hopes it will become a regional organization.

"I would like to see it grow...as [MYPN] has grown," Boutin said. The group will host its first event Wednesday, Feb. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 55 South Commercial St. in Manchester. Send and e-mail to ssnhnrsvp@gmail.com. People interested in joining or pitching in can send e-mail to socialservicesnhnetworking@gmail.com.

—Jeff Mucciarone

Students campaign against texting-driving

Manchester West High School seniors Jake McNamara and Thomas Stephen have created a public relations campaign aim-



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ing to halt the dangerous practice of texting while driving. The campaign, dubbed "Eyes up, phone down," was started as part of a DECA project. (DECA is an organization that prepares students to be leaders and entrepreneurs. See www.deca.org). But it's grown beyond a mere school project.

"We get together every single day to talk about it," Stephen said.

The pair make presentations to students at colleges and in drivers education courses. They show a documentary on the topic during their presentations.

"It leaves you speechless," McNamara said.

In their research, McNamara and Stephen found that people are six times more likely to get in an accident if they're texting while driving than if they're driving under the influence of alcohol.

Some of their own survey work was particularly striking. They found that 42

percent of West High students admitted to texting while driving, while 73 percent of West High students said they don't feel safe while texting and driving.

"And yet they said they text and drive," McNamara said.

The two will compete next month in a statewide DECA competition; if they take first place, they will represent the Granite State in a national competition in Florida in April.

They're also slated to present at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, as well as the University of New Hampshire during the National Honor Society leadership conference.

Texting while driving has garnered plenty of media attention recently. New Hampshire's ban on the practice took effect last year. Stephen and McNamara figured it was a big issue and important to people in their age range, so they chose it as their project

Let's talk No throwing things

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

Even before the tragic shooting in Tuscon, Ariz., people were talking about the state of political discourse in this country and here in New Hampshire. And a typical sentiment these days has been that discourse has grown particularly nasty.

Former governor and state Republican party chairman John Sununu has said previously that discourse and political dealings used to be different: "We used to be able to disagree quite reasonably." Not so anymore. Now there may well be truth in Sununu's sentiment, but it should probably be noted that he said last year something to the effect of getting rid of the "vermin," meaning Democrats, in the last election. But perhaps he felt he needed to ratchet up the tone just to keep pace.

Sununu's son John, a former U.S. senator from New Hampshire, penned a piece in the Boston Globe earlier this month on the discourse front. He said, among other things, to be careful of yearning for how lovely things used to be and pointed to conflicts that prompted heated debate, such as civil rights, Iran-Contra and Robert Bork's nomination hearings. He wrote in the piece, "Serious differences in ideology provoke deep emotion."

Skip Murphy, who operates the conservative website GraniteGrok.com, said he didn't think discourse had changed all that much over the years. He did say interpersonal relationships have changed. He mentioned President Ronald Reagan and Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill used to "fight like cats and dogs" and then go out and have a beer together.

"There is as much going on now as there was during the time of Ronald Reagan," Murphy said.

As opposed to discourse becoming more harsh, there has been an increase in the number of moments where people are called out for their political correctness or supposed lack thereof. Murphy said he once heard Joe the plumber, made famous during the 2008 presidential election, call political correctness political castration.

"It's nothing more than a way to silence



your opponents," Murphy said. "...It gives the wielder of political correctness... great power."

But Murphy said First Amendment rights in this country don't mean you can't be offended.

Manchester state Sen. Lou D'Allesandro said he thought discourse was at an all-time high. He pointed to the first orders of business of the state House of Representatives: repealing a gun ban at the Statehouse and investigating whether state Rep. Michael Brunelle, who is also the executive director of the state Democratic party, could serve in both roles.

"If those aren't examples of the political discourse, I don't know what is," D'Allesandro said.

D'Allesandro said the shootings in Arizona have tempered the rancor of the discourse, but he wasn't sure how long that would last.

"I think we can disagree without being disagreeable," D'Allesandro said. "We don't need to call each other names. Rhetoric creates a series of other problems that create unintended consequences."

Murphy said it seems now like the party that just lost, Democrats, is looking for bipartisanism, when they weren't really looking for that prior to losing.

Murphy did say the discourse may have ratcheted up some as the two major parties have become more polarized. But for anyone to say it used to be so much more civil and that politicians got along so well when arguing their points, that's probably not the case, he said.

Technology — it's just so darned immediate these days

A Democratic Tennessee Rep. Steve Cohen recently compared Republican tactics to defund or repeal the health care reform bill to the Holocaust. Murphy said whoever brings up Hitler or Nazis first is usually the loser. Comments like Cohen's certainly garner plenty of attention at every level in the media and quickly.

The Internet naturally plays a big role now-

topic. Last June they kicked off the campaign, gearing it mainly to people between the ages of 14 and 18, with a secondary target group of people between ages 19 and 50.

The pair hosted a rock band competition in the high school to generate support for their campaign. The competition took place during lunch breaks at school, and the winning band took home a \$200 gift card.

"It was a good way to get the whole school involved," McNamara said.

McNamara and Stephen also sell T-shirts and wrist bands to generate funds, along with fundraising events. They've raised \$700 so far, all of which they said they'd donate to the National Organization for Youth Safety.

"We've gotten a ton of support," Stephen said. —Jeff Mucciarone

HIPPO POLITICS

adays. You can post comments beneath news stories. There are lots of outlets for people on particular sides of the aisle or the debate — places like GraniteGrok, RedHampshire.com and BlueHampshire.com.

The Internet and the blogosphere add more layers to the discourse. There are national, state, county and local conversations, and there are different venues, such as blogs, or the floor of the Senate or a town hall meeting or a conversation with a neighbor in the driveway. The different venues often carry with them different tones, Murphy said. Trouble can abound when something that plays well in, say, the blog world gets tried out at a town hall meeting.

"Probably not good form...", Murphy said.

"I think the blogs have an enormous impact," D'Allesandro said. "It's a new way to immediately bring up criticism. It becomes pervasive."

The blogs will get things going and then news outlets and talk shows will pick things up and run with them, D'Allesandro said, adding the process becomes repetitive and self-aggrandizing.

He wasn't denouncing blogs. On the contrary, D'Allesandro pushed for taking advantage of the Internet to spread facts and positive messages, rather than rhetoric.

Online, everyone is watching. Whatever gets said or posted here in New Hampshire can easily be taken in or out of context in California or anywhere else. That's part of the reason political analyst Dean Spiotes says the statement "all politics is local" is becoming less and less true. Technology is making "all politics is national" much closer to the truth, he says.

Everything in play

What is different today is that everything, *everything* is a political point, Murphy said.

When Gabrielle Giffords was shot, along with 18 other people, including a Republican judge who was killed, it was tragic, of course. But many saw it as a political opportunity. It became a sounding board for people to claim the political discourse was out of control, even insinuating it was to blame for the person who did the shooting, many said.

"Everything is a political mountain that people are trying to capture," Murphy said.

President Barack Obama made an address regarding the Tucson incident, a speech that even former House Speaker Newt Gingrich praised as “exactly the right tone for him,” according to a Politico.com story.

D’Allesandro said he is hoping others follow Obama’s lead.

Playing the blame game

For Murphy, who comes from a conservative perspective, a lot ties back to the size of government. If government were to be reduced, the discourse might tone down as there would presumably be “less to yack about.”

“Sometimes things are not political,” Murphy said. “They are a tragedy. They are violent. But they don’t have necessarily a political angle to them....”

Murphy said the country is blessed to have a style of government where power swings one way and then the other usually in a nonviolent fashion. Naturally, when something like the Arizona shooting happens, it grabs all the

attention.

“... Blaming things on a bad political discourse...is a cop out,” Murphy said.

Keeping the conversations going

Looking back to his beginning as a lawmaker in 1972, D’Allesandro said discourse used to be more polite. Again, he said politicians could disagree on the issues without being disagreeable.

D’Allesandro looked to the leadership in the House and Senate in New Hampshire to calm things down and to lead by example.

“People have to rise to the occasion,” D’Allesandro said. “I think the President did that in his speech in Tucson. He rose to the occasion. I’ve noticed the tone of the rhetoric has toned down. We’ve got to maintain that.”

A harsh discourse or not, Murphy said less speech is never a good thing. “If you don’t agree with me, don’t try to shut me up. Let’s talk about it some more,” he said.

PRIMARY 2012

Get the party started

Pawlenty and Santorum come to visit



Rick Santorum in Bedford. Adam Coughlin photo.

By Jeff Mucciarone and Adam Coughlin
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

And it’s begun.

For Rick Santorum, Tim Pawlenty and others, it probably began a long time ago. But it’s clear now that New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation-primary season is under way as Mitt Romney romped to victory during a straw poll at the state GOP’s annual meeting this past weekend.

Romney, who is already well-known, hasn’t been all that visible recently, but Pawlenty, former governor of Minnesota, was in New Hampshire this week and Santorum, a former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, was recently here for the eighth time in the past year.

These events give politicians an opportunity to polish their stories and messages.

“It’s getting to know the people on the ground,” said political analyst Dean Spiliotes.

Perhaps the best thing these early encounters do for the candidates is build up their stamina. Santorum spoke to Bedford Republicans on Jan. 8 and had a full day of events scheduled in New Hampshire for Jan. 9 but a snow storm canceled that day’s events. In Bedford, Santorum talked about his time in the House in the early 1990s when he was part of the rabble-raising “Gang of Seven” with current speaker John Boehner and how he won his U.S. Senate seat in 1994 by defeating incumbent Democrat Harris Wofford. (While Wofford might not be a familiar name, his political team of Paul Begala and James Carville would go on to lead Bill Clinton to the presidency.)

When Pawlenty came to town, he stressed freedom and limited government in his pub-

lic remarks to Merrimack County Republicans, where he also released a new video. “The United States of America is the most successful nation the world has ever known and I think that’s largely because we’re the freest nation,” Pawlenty says in the video. “Humans cannot reach their potential, cannot realize their dreams unless they’re free.” The former Minnesota governor also participated in the New Hampshire Political Library’s “Politics and Eggs” series, as well as a book signing at the Manchester Barnes and Noble. An employee at the bookstore estimated about 100 people, including press, attended Pawlenty’s book signing this week.

Also in primary news:

- Romney easily won a straw poll held this past weekend at the New Hampshire GOP’s annual meeting. He garnered 35 percent of the vote, while Ron Paul grabbed 11 percent, followed by Pawlenty with 8 percent and Sarah Palin with 7 percent. Former New Hampshire senator Judd Gregg garnered 2 percent of the straw poll vote.

- Santorum seems to be looking to tap into the local roots. Mike Biundo, who ran Rep. Frank Guinta’s successful campaign this past November, recently took on the role of state director for Santorum’s political action committee. Clair Monier, a longtime Republican activist, hopped on board with Santorum as well. She’ll serve as chairwoman of his political action committee in New Hampshire.

- In what could be considered a good sign for tea party supporters, Jack Kimball was elected chairman of the New Hampshire Republican party. He beat out Juliana Bergeron, who had been supported by former chairman John Sununu. National online political publication Politico ran a story this week about Kimball’s election as a possible sign of the tea party’s strength and influence.

- The Union Leader reported Romney is slated to make his first public appearance in several months in New Hampshire on Saturday, March 5.

- And finally, another 2008 graduate may be back again. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani told Fox News’s Sean Hannity he was thinking about making a run for the Republican nomination.

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Supermajority leader

Meet D.J. Bettencourt, new NH House Majority Leader

On the one hand, majority leader of the state House of Representatives is an enviable position, especially given the Republicans' supermajority. On the other hand, 300 legislators is a lot of people to keep on the wagon. D.J. Bettencourt, a Salem resident who has been a state representative since 2004, was elected majority leader this past December.

Q: *What was the process of figuring out the Republican agenda like?*

What I did was, when I ran ... one of the things I said was, I felt as though the creation of a Republican agenda had to be a bottom-up process, rather than a top-down process. So ... over the holidays, we met in small groups ... of anywhere between three and five members. And I sat and talked with them. I asked them two very simple questions: what are your priorities and motivations and ... when we're done with the legislative session in two years, what do you hope to be able to go back to your constituents having accomplished? And the result of those meetings was the agenda

It was probably no surprise that the state budget topped the list. Was that a consistent theme you found in the meetings?

Everyone said, to a person, that the budget was the number-one issue.

When you look at the budget, do you see specific problem areas?

First and foremost, we can't talk about the budget without addressing ... that New Hampshire faces nearly a \$1 billion deficit. With a deficit of that magnitude, anywhere and everywhere is fair game for evaluation with regard to spending cuts.

So it's bigger than pointing to a particular area?

Obviously it's a substantial problem. The first areas you look to are the areas that saw the greatest amount of spending increases in the past four years. Those should be [areas to look at].

What are some areas where there were substantial increases?

The legislative administrative process — that's one area where we're going to look.

Republicans have a supermajority in the House. How big a challenge is it going to be to keep their eyes on the ball?

I think that the meetings that took place were an important step in forming relationships between me and the members. ... I think we're united as a party. I think members looking at the agenda are seeing themselves reflected in it.

What about Democrats? The numbers suggest you don't need them to pass the legislation you want, but how willing will you be to work with Democrats?

First and foremost, considering the challenges we face, everyone must work together. The best ideas will be considered regardless of where they come from. I'm scheduling weekly meetings with the minority leader, weekly meetings with the senate president ... meetings with the governor. These meetings are important to ensure that we're all working together, ... when it's in the best interest of the people of New Hampshire.

What drew you to politics at such a young age? [Bettencourt is 27.]

9/11 was an awakening for me. I was a junior



in high school when it took place. It awakened me to the fact that politics and government have a real important role in our lives.

So it took off from there?

I made the decision to run for the House in

2004 and the event that sealed the deal for me was the death of President Reagan. His death in a lot of ways signified the end of one era of Republican politics and the need for beginning another, a new era that needed to include younger people as well.

Was your age ever a factor?

When I was elected in 2004, I was 20 years old. I'm 27 currently. I can honestly say I cannot think of an example in which my age was a significant inhibitor to being an effective legislator. ... The other legislators have been very good to me, very willing to listen to my ideas. ... Being able to understand and remember well my own growing pains ... helps you address the growing pains within the caucus and to educate the new legislators about the process, helping me establish a mentoring program.... [P]eople often ask me, with 400 members how does it work? ... you have people ... coming from a number of different walks of life. It provides a diversity of experiences that I think is invaluable.

Interesting perspective.

Absolutely. ... The House turns over about one-third of its representatives in every election. Obviously in elections like 2006 and this most recent one ... there are even greater numbers of new legislators. But they all bring outside experiences that are invaluable to the legislative process. ...

A lot has been made about the controversy over Michael Brunelle. [A legislative request called for an investigation into Brunelle, who is both a state representative from Manchester and the executive director of the state Democratic party.] Was that a distraction?

A complaint was made by a legislator and it was directed to the appropriate ... committee. ... It's not in any way a distraction. Our focus is on the legislative agenda. Our agenda is a comprehensive conservative agenda. ... It concerns not luxuries but items we must address. For example, education funding The retirement system.... The agenda is what we're focused on.

If there was one message you wanted to get out to residents, what would it be?

The message that I'd like to get out is that we have to address our budget deficit. We face, right now, approximately a \$700 tax increase for every man, woman and child in the state. ... Budget choices ... are going to be a necessary responsibility to ensure New Hampshire's long-term prosperity. —Jeff Mucciarone

QOL

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

JANUARY 27, 2010

Remember “heat”?

This just in: last year was really warm. Despite the fact that it doesn't feel like it right now, given the recent plummeting mercury and snowfall, University of New Hampshire climatologist Amy Stampone said 2010 was the warmest year in New Hampshire since 1895. The mean temperature was 46.7 degrees Fahrenheit, which was 3 degrees greater than the climate normal of 43.8 degrees. The warmth came early in the year with greater temperatures from January to March. Three of the state's top 10 warmest years occurred during the last decade; 1998 was the second-warmest year on record.

QOL: +1 (because right now QOL likes anything warm)

Comment: *The coldest year on record for the Granite State was 1926, with a mean temperature of 39.5 degrees.*

Meanwhile, back to cold...

Temperatures on Sunday night, Jan. 23, reached -30 F in North Conway and merely felt like it everywhere else in the state. Add in wind chill and some parts of New England felt like they were 50 degrees below zero, according to WMUR.

QOL: -1

Comment: *QOL would cry about this if QOL weren't so afraid that the tears would instantly freeze to QOL's skin.*

90-minute delay for “a case of the Mondays”

After a week where kids went to school for about a day and a half, with more than three days off due to holiday and then snow, Monday's delay for extreme cold was particularly tough to take for parents who needed to get to work and just generally get on with the normal business of a week. While nobody wants to have to walk to school in below-zero temperatures or drive around in half a foot of snow, it seems like schools in New Hampshire, which has always been up here in frosty, snow-covered New England, need to keep kids safe but still make it through winter without simply ceasing operation every other day.

QOL score: -2

Comments: *On Feb. 7, QOL is going to need a delay for “too much fun on Sunday.”*

NH is top dog

For the first time ever, a herding dog has been named the “Best in Show” by the American Kennel Club and Eukanuba, according to the event's website, www.akc.org/nationalchampionship. Reckon, a 2½-year-old Australian shepherd, was bred in Kensington and won the national championship late last year in California.

QOL: +1

Comment: *The dog's owners, Leslie Frank and Judy Harrington, received a \$50,000 check.*

Housing sales dipped last year

Home sales in New Hampshire last year dipped slightly from 2009 levels. There was a modest increase in the median price of homes, according to the New Hampshire Association of Realtors. There were 10,525 residential units sold in 2010, which is a 2.6-percent drop from the 10,818 sold in 2009. The median price was \$215,000 in 2010, a \$3,000 jump from 2009's median price. The expiration of the homebuyer tax credit has likely impacted sales during the second half of this year, officials have said.

QOL: -1

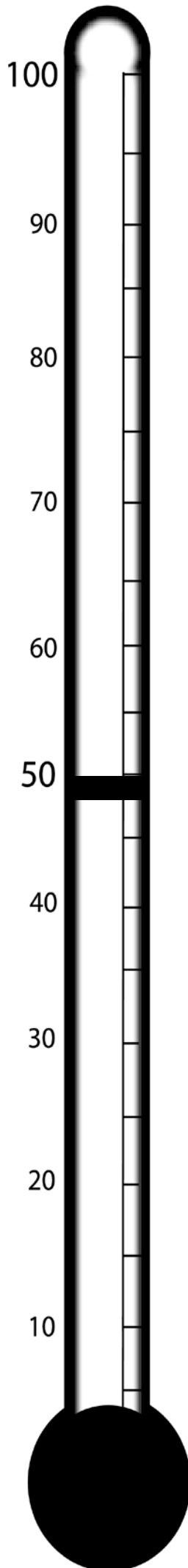
Comment: *“There is still no clear trend line that would give us a real sense of how this market will play out in 2011,” said NHAR President Tom Riley.*

QOL score: 51

Net change: -2

QOL this week: 49

Notice something that changed the quality of life for good or for ill in southern New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com



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DAVE LONG'S HIPPO SPORTS

LONGSHOTS

Despite crash vs. Jets, they still earn pats on the back



Let's close out the Patriots part of the season with some random yet still cogent thoughts on the 2011 football season.

What ever happened to the notion that sometimes teams just lose because the other guys were better on that day instead of the way it is now where someone is always to blame for not doing something?

To that end, I'll ask: if the Jets and Patriots played 100 times, how many do you think each would win? I'm thinking Pats 52 or 53 and the Jets 48 or 47. And if you're in the same neighborhood, then why was losing to the Jets two Sundays ago so shocking?

If you've got it weighed toward a lot more Patriots wins, then my guess is you're hopelessly in love with your team and incapable of making an objective judgment, or you're a yahoo, like those on the political right trying to rewrite history to say the fundamentals of the economy were sound under the past administration and that all the trouble started under the current guy. Not that he's doing a great job at trying to pull us out of the hole he inherited — but come on.

Now, if you want to go the "it's someone's fault" route, how is it that **Rex Ryan's** staff could come up with a strategy that had a three-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback playing at the peak of his ability looking so confused with what was coming at him, while the much-maligned second-year quarterback could look so comfortable against what **Coach B** and the Patriots were sending at him?

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, of course, on whether the 14-2 Patriots season was a failure or not. So here's a litmus test question on that. If I had asked you on Aug. 11, 2010, if it was more likely that the Patriots would lose to the Jets in the first round of the playoffs or they'd go 14-2, what would you have said? I suspect it would be the great majority saying the latter — which means they did a lot better than anyone expected.

Is this the time I should say I told you so about **Mark Sanchez** or should I want for another point in this column? By the way, Sanchez has already won more playoff games than the more ballyhooed and dare I say overrated **Joe Willie Namath** did in his Jets career.

You want an example of how meaningless numbers are? This is Ben Roethlisberger's line in the Steelers' win over the Jets when he was the biggest difference-maker in that game: 12 for 19 for 135 yards, one TD pass and one pick.

Which QB in the line of Ben's strength and escapability will have a better NFL career when it's all over, **Tim Tebow** or **Cam Newton**?

Super Bowl appearance #7 makes the Steelers the best NFL organization in the Super Bowl era — ironic when you consider it took the Rooney family 41 years before they won their first NFL title in 1974 after buying the team in 1933.

I know **Vince Lombardi** loved seeing the Packers get to the big game from his perch in the great beyond, but I guarantee you he rolled over in his grave watching nitwit **BJ Raji** showboating as he pranced into the end zone on the deciding TD where the ball was knocked out of his hand a millisecond after it crossed the goal line. And

I'm betting, game-winner or not, if he did it playing for Lombardi he'd have been running sprints at Lambeau about three minutes after the bus dropped the team off at the stadium after the flight home.

And is the reason **Troy Aikman** said almost nothing about that astonishingly appalling display on the Fox broadcasts that he played with **Leon Lett**, who lost a TD in the Super Bowl on the same kind of dingbat play when **Steve Tasker** chased him down and knocked it out of his hand and through the end zone for a touchback? Of course the Cowboys were winning by about a zillion, so that makes it a tad different.

Anyone else out there know that after a year where he was a starter in 80 percent of the games and two years at the bottom of the depth chart after his 1,000-yard rushing season **BenJarvus Green-Ellis** is already 20th on the Patriots' all-time rushing list? And which is a bigger indictment that the Pats don't have a glorious past when it comes to big-time runners through the years? That he's 20th, or that draft bust **Laurence Maroney** incredibly is 13th on that same list?

After his 36-TD-pass season Tom Brady moved 12 spots up the ladder on the list of most TD passes all-time. Six were Hall of Famers and former mentor **Drew Bledsoe**. If he goes for 31 next year he gets to sixth all-time by moving by **Joe Montana** and **Johnny Unitas**. Beyond that only **John Elway's** 300 and **Fran Tarkenton's** 342 are in range, which would leave him fourth all-time behind probable leader **Peyton Manning** (399 now), current leader **Brett Favre** (508) and **Dan Marino** (420).

Here's one man's early report card on Coach B's drafting of the slew of draft picks the Pats have had the last two years. A: **Sebastian Vollmer**, **Rob Gronkowski** and **Devin McCourty**. B: **Pat Chung**, **Brandon Spikes** and **Julian Edelman** (despite an uneven year) and **Favre** (higher if Gronkowski didn't come at the same time). C: **Brandon Tate** and **Jermaine Cunningham** (need to see more). D: **Ron Brace** and **Darius Butler**. So I think Coach B should invest some of those draft picks he's piled up for this year to get a couple of ready-on-day-one pass rushers. No rookies. They are a 14-2 team, which means they need to fill in the holes immediately so they can win NOW.

What do "fans" who say someone isn't tough enough — like many did to **Jay Cutler** after he left Sunday's game with Green Bay — say after they find out he played a few series with an MCL tear before the coaches yanked him?

Why does the NFC winner get the **George Halas** Trophy and the Super Bowl winner get the **Vince Lombardi** Trophy? Since all Halas did was win more titles than Vince, perfect the T-formation still used today, retire as the all-time winningest coach with 318 and found the NFL. Shouldn't the league's ultimate trophy be named after the guy who did all that?

Dave Long can be reached at dlong@hippo-press.com. He hosts Saturday Morning Sports with Dave Long from 11 a.m. to noon Saturdays on WGAM — The Game 1250-AM in Manchester and 900-AM in Nashua.

PEOPLE, PLACES & OTHER STUFF

Derryfield girls hoopsters are first locals to 10 wins

The Numbers: The first local team to 10 wins is the Derryfield girls' basketball team, which got there undefeated after a 63-35 win over Sunapee when **Hannah Comeau** and **Zoe Sobin** combined for 25 points and the stingy Cougars defense allowed just nine points in each of the first three quarters and just six in the fourth period.

Sports 101: Two college programs have each produced three different Super Bowl-winning QBs. Name the schools and the QBs.

Buzzer of the Week: From Memorial sophomore **Allie Hartford**, who buried a three off a pass from game-high-scorer **Amra Elezovic** (21 points) to give Memorial a 41-38 win over Trinity that moved the Crusaders to 8-1 on the year and dropped the Pioneers to 3-6.

Coming and Going: Hooksett's **Phil Tuttle** was selected by the San Jose Earthquake in Major League Soccer's supplemental draft last week. The Notre Dame senior went in the second round after posting a 7-4-2 record in goal for the Irish in 2010 when he concluded his career with nine shutouts and a 0.94 goals-allowed average.

Coming and Going II: **John Lyons** has joined **Sean McDonnell's** coaching staff in Durham as defensive coordinator after the departure of **Sean McGowan** for Temple. Lyons was head man at

Dartmouth for 12 years and was coach of the year in New England when the Green were a perfect 10-0 in 1996. He and McDonnell coached together at Boston University in the '80s under former Dartmouth headman **Steve Stetson**.

Stat Sheet: Besides the recently frigid Miami Heat, when's the last time you saw a team have three 20-point scorers in the same game? It happened last week when streaking St. Anselm got a 92-81 win over Southern Connecticut as **Allen Harris** was high with 24 while **Tom Baudinet** had 23 and **Jack Keough** 21.

Alumni News: Those e-mailing after our recent Great Events piece about Bishop Bradley's winning the first Queen City Basketball Invitational Tournament may be interested to know **Mike McVeigh**, who played at Bradley under legendary **Frankie O'Donnell**, is working on a major streak of his own at North Andover, Mass. The Scarlet Knights have qualified for the Massachusetts Boys State Tournament 46 consecutive years, the last 29 being on his watch.

Sports 101 Answer: Alabama and Purdue. 'Bama's are **Bart Starr** (Packers twice), **Joe Namath** (Jets) and **Kenny Stabler**, (Oakland). For Purdue it's **Bob Griese** (Dolphins twice), **Lenny Dawson** (KC) and **Drew Brees** (Saints).

The Numbers

3 – goals scored by **Tyler Theodoulou**, including one just 7 seconds into the game as Trinity upended reigning Division I hockey champs Concord in a 5-4 win decided by a shot with less than 2 minutes left by **Nick (bumble) Beeson**.

7 – goals Central scored in a 7-0 shutout of Nashua South when **MacKensie Myers** scored a hat trick, **Sean Burke** had a goal and 3 assists and **Ian Beliveau** got his first career shutout, stopping all 12 shots he faced.

13 and 10 – numbers of the double-double put on the

board by Bow's **Brian Cherry** in Plymouth State's 77-60 win over Southern Maine, when Derry's **Ryan (leg of) Lambert** had 12 as another of PSU's 4 double-digit scorers in the game.

26 – saves made by Bow's **Luke Minassin** to lead 5-3-1 Bow to a 5-2 win over Spaulding in NHIA hockey action.

42 – saves made by **Robert (cool and the) Kang** helping St. A earn a 2-2 tie with Williams College in ECAC hockey as the NH connection of **Mike Richard** (Derry) and **Nick (10) Wheeler** (Nashua) had the goals for the Hawks.

91 – points averaged per game for 6-1 Goffstown after their third triple-digit effort of the season in a 102-60 thumping of Windham when **Connor Shaw** had 22 and **Ryan Lange** 19 to lead the way for G-town.

50 – years of coaching experience on the opposing bench for Bishop Brady boys' basketball on Monday when they face St. Thomas Aquinas and coach **Danny Parr**, who's in his 24th year at STA after beginning at Hopkinton and moving to Portsmouth. His teams have won five championships.

field-from-getting-nailed scene better than him.

Vince Lombardi: Legendary Green Bay coach who took the reins of the moribund Pack after less than legendary reign of legendary St. Anselmer Scooter McClean after 1-10-1 1958 campaign. Immediate jump to 7-5 started a ride that saw them play in 6 title games the next 8 years, winning 5, including the first 2 Super Bowls. He went 89-29-4 with the Pack and 7-5-2 in his forgotten year with Washington's (Politically inco) Redskins before dying in 1970. Subject of **Lombardi**, now playing on Broadway.

George Halas: Founder of Chicago Bears — under the name the Decatur Staleys — and NFL. Played as an end on offense and defense, ran business side of the team and in his spare time was also the coach. Greatest claim to fame as player was a strip of Jim Thorpe and fumble recovery that he ran back 98 yards for the longest defensive TD in the NFL for 60+ years. Played RF for Yankees in 1919 right before Babe Ruth took over the job for good in 1920.

Sports Glossary

Johnny Unitas: QB from the 1950s to '70s who became an all-timer with the Colts after being a Steelers training camp cut. Won titles in 1958 and 1959 and Super Bowl in 1971. Retired as all-time TD pass leader with 290, 48 more than previous leader **Y.A. Tittle**. Three-time MVP, five-time first team All-NFL and 10-time Pro Bowler. Played bit part in *Any Given Sunday* as Knights head coach Gus.

Any Given Sunday: Despite some really bad uniforms, better than you'd guess football flick from conspiracy-obsessed director Oliver Stone. Starred Al Pacino as coach Tony D'Amato under fire from neophyte owner Christiana Pagniacchi, played by Cameron Diaz. Employed NFL types including the aforementioned Tittle plus Jimmy Brown and Dick Butkus, not to mention rapper turned actor LL Cool J. But the best job shockingly came from just-missed-going-to-the-big-house Lawrence Taylor as Luther "Sharky" Lavay. No one ever nailed the unconscious-on-the-

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Fishing!

On the ice with NH Fish and Game's Mark Beauchesne

By Jeff Mucciarone





Above: NH Fish and Game's Mark Beauchesne hauls a sled of ice fishing gear. Jeff Mucciarone photo. Left: Jeff Mucciarone holds a pickerel he caught in Concord. Mark Beauchesne photo.

There is no wind to speak of this particular January morning. It's just a few days since the new year began. The sun is shining. But it is cold. The sun does help, though.

Mark Beauchesne pulls a small sled full of gear to the edge of the ice at the bank of a pond in Concord. He pauses and gazes out over the frozen water. There's a small slope from the bank out onto the ice. With his boot, he pushes the sled, which contains tiny fishing rods, a motorized drill, a sonar device, a hefty winter jacket and traditional tip-ups, and it takes off over the ice, skidding sideways.

Beauchesne, wearing thick snow pants and rubber boots, picks up a six-foot iron bar with a blade fixed onto its end and swings it into the ice, checking thickness. He takes a few steps and swings it again. He repeats that procedure until he's where he wants to fish, 100 feet or so off shore.

The ice is littered with circular indentations a little smaller than an average-sized dinner plate. Beauchesne takes a peek into the holes before grabbing his drill and, in a matter of seconds, neatly cuts several holes in the ice. He then uses his old kitty litter scooper to scoop the ice chunks from each hole, revealing the black water below.

He sets to work setting up the tip-ups, which are contraptions with line and reel fixed to them. The contraptions dangle a hooked line with some kind of bait, in this case a small shiner. When a fish grabs the shiner, the tug releases a flag that stands atop the tip-up signaling "fish on."

Before Beauchesne finishes setting up the second tip-up, the flag is in the air on the first one.

"I have no idea what we have here, but it's happy," Beauchesne said as he watched the line spin off the reel still submerged in the water. "It's on a string it's not going to go anywhere. This one's going somewhere, though. Typically it will stop, slow down."

How long you wait is a matter of how patient you are and how much the fish is moving. When you do grab the line, you have to be careful not to pull the hook right out of the fish's mouth. Typically, he'd wait for it to stop and then turn it around.

"It did stop for a second there, had a little tension there," Beauchesne said. "First thing I'm going to do is to pull the tip-up out, let some line peel off and get this thing out of my way."

He holds the line gently. He doesn't pull back hard. Moving the tip-up away eliminates



SONAR helps locate fish. Jeff Mucciarone photo.

the possibility of tangling, at least on that. Once he's decided to bring the fish in, he keeps consistent tension on the line and pulls it in by hand.

"Then if a fish wants to pull and keep going, I can easily let it slip through my fingers," Beauchesne said. "Not a big fish, just one that wanted to get the heck out of here. Maybe there was competition down there and it didn't want to lose its breakfast."

Beauchesne, of New Hampshire's Fish and Game Department, used small minnows, a couple inches long, on the hook. He slips the hook in just behind the shiner's dorsal fin. That way it can swim freely.

"It's coming. That's a lot of line. It's getting heavier now," he said. "Never seen them take that much line before."

The "them" in his statement is the type of fish, which in this case is a crappie, a popular species in the area both through the ice and during the rest of the year. The coloration on all species is more pronounced this time of year, since there's little vegetation for fish to blend in with. Markings are more distinct and fish are, well, prettier this time of year.

Ice crunches under foot as he straddles the hole watching the spool spin, sometimes sporadically.

Beauchesne uses his thumb and forefinger to "lip" the crappie, which looks to be a foot long or so. He quickly pulls out the hook and sends the fish headfirst back into the black water, where it happily takes off.

On this particular day, several species made their way out of the water for a quick photo before being released: largemouth bass, pickerel, crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed and yellow perch.

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Mark Beauchesne on the ice. JM photo.

fairly simply, provided you've purchased your annual fishing license. (Visit www.wildlife.state.nh.us.)

The ice can seem like somewhat of a blank slate. Where should you drill that first hole? How deep should you hang the bait? But there are clues.

Without any special knowledge or expertise, you can easily plunk your first tip-up into a hole previously used by another ice fisherman. That's usually a pretty good indicator, and again, it takes no skill. If there are no other holes, that could mean the water body isn't such a great fishery or, and hopefully this isn't the case, the ice isn't safe. Or it could just be a coincidence.

People use hand-crank drills with sharp blades on the bottom or faster and more powerful motorized augers, such as what Beauchesne uses. In the old days, Beauchesne used to use a hatchet to make a hole in the ice. Once the hole is drilled, scoop the excess ice chunks out of the way.

"If you get cold, start chiseling some ice," Beauchesne said. "You'll warm up pretty quick."

Beyond copying previous fishermen, officials say to take a look at the many depth maps available on the Fish and Game website. Depth maps provide indicators as to where certain species would be. Warm water species — bass, panfish, pickerel — are likely to be in more shallow water compared to a species like lake trout, which spend their time in deep water. Pay attention to breaks in depths — it could be an indication of where fish are hanging out. Fish will move around during the winter. Beauchesne was looking to fish in the middle of the water column. Fishing in the middle provides ample opportunity to catch fish hanging out in a variety of depths. If in the course of fishing you notice you're getting bites at particular depths, adjust accordingly. It's easy to switch up the depths on tip-ups. Keep the tip-ups in a somewhat concentrated area and try them at different depths. See what happens and take note.

"I mean they work," Beauchesne said of tip-ups. "This is that tool that is your grandfather's tool because he's been using these things for 50 years."

Beauchesne checks the operation each time before he submerges the tip-up. Sometimes they need a little tweaking to ensure proper operation. He had to adjust the metal bar a bit to make sure a tug on the line set off the flag.

Also, check for tangles before setting it up.

Beauchesne uses an approximately two-foot monofilament leader attached to braided Dacron line or just backing. Backing is thicker than the line you'd use on a traditional fishing rod. Beauchesne used a small split-shot sinker, which attaches directly to the line, to help keep the bait in more or less one place.

Checking the depth isn't all that complicated either. Beauchesne uses a tool called a sounder, which is a weight that clamps onto your hook. You lower it and feel the line to see where the bottom is. A sounder is inexpensive, but Beauchesne said some people use a spark plug for the job.

Beauchesne uses a small bobber to mark where he is going to fish. If it's the middle of the water column, he'll mark it with a bobber at the halfway point of the line from the top of the hole to the lake bed. If he needs to adjust the height, he can always reference the bobber. Other people tie a knot in the line or twist a match into the line. Beauchesne prefers the bobber as it's easier to see than a knot.

"It gives me something to look at visually," Beauchesne said. "I can look in there and if I don't see that bobber, I know something's up."

Beauchesne uses small shiners to bait his tip-ups. The shiners are small enough for panfish, like crappie, bluegill and pumpkinseed, to snack on, but big enough to draw in bigger fish, like bass and pickerel.

"This method is very simple, putting a tip-up out," Beauchesne said. "Anybody can do it. And they're accessible. They're everywhere. They're fairly inexpensive. They're even less expensive in the summer time at yard sales. That's the time to pick up your ice fishing gear. If you go to buy in the wintertime, that's when demand is there."

Beauchesne uses white backing line, as it's easy to see in the hole.

"I can see the direction the line is going," Beauchesne said, adding you always want to pull in the opposite direction. "And you don't want the line bending around the hole. That's a lot of line right there," as he watched the first crappie peel line off the reel. "Typically they just eat it and go."

A quick online search suggests tip-ups cost \$5 to \$20, while hand-crank augers cost about \$40. Wayne Hall sells ice fishing gear in Concord out of his garage. That's where Beauchesne picks up his bait. Beauchesne said garage and home operations are typical with the ice fish-

Continued on page 24

LOOK GOOD,

feel great!

Part four in Hippo's four-part guide to feeling fit and ready for the year, inside and out

Run, bike, ski

Winter triathlons come alive

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

In literature, winter is often used as a metaphor for death. In sports, however, winter is breathing new life into old games.

After years of success in Nordic countries, winter triathlons are catching on in the United States, and New Hampshire is helping lead the charge, according to Charlie Roberts of Channel Multisport, which organizes winter triathlons in New England.

A winter triathlon consists of a 5- to 9-km run, a 10- to 15-km mountain bike ride and an 8- to 12-km cross-country ski, according to USA Triathlon. All of the activities are done on hard-packed snow. For a good competitor, the race can take one to two hours, which is equivalent to a sprint triathlon in the summer. Roberts said the races couldn't last much longer because of the cold.

The beauty of the winter triathlon is that there are very few good competitors actually competing. This gives you a better chance of winning. The sport is so in its infancy that not many athletes participate, according to Roberts. In fact, winter triathlons were only introduced to the East Coast in 2008, when Roberts organized the first event in Massachusetts.

"It's kind of comical," Roberts said. "I was looking at things to do during the winter and while I was poking around I discovered these winter triathlons. I thought they kind of seemed neat but I noticed there only seemed to be one in Colorado. I thought that was a long way from Massachusetts. Of course now that I organize the triathlons, I don't have any time to compete in them."

But organize he did. Now half of the winter triathlons

in the United States are held in New England. That is not a very high number. Last year there were only four held on the East Coast. This reflects how young this sport is. Its history dates back a bit further in the rest of the world but not much. The International Triathlon Union has been holding world championship races since 1997 and the United States held its first national championship in 2001 in Colorado.

The premiere race in New Hampshire was the Gunstock Winter Triathlon held on Sunday, Jan. 23, in Gilford. According to Roberts, the Gunstock race is a qualifier for the world championships. While this seems like it would attract the best of the best, the race is usually only run by 60 to 70 competitors.

Relatively low turnout can be expected in any growing sport, but there is one major difference between the winter triathlon and its summertime brother: the weather. Regular triathlons are run despite heat or rain, but winter weather can be wild. Last year a winter triathlon was scheduled for February at King Pine in Madison but it was canceled due to the weather, according to Dan Houde, marketing director at King Pine. Houde said King Pine's early summer triathlon continues to grow each year and that the organizer of that event considered putting on a winter one this year but was unable to get the logistics settled. Houde was hopeful such an event could happen next year as King Pine is a great place to host a winter triathlon.

While the sport is catching on, such hurdles will need to be overcome. Despite this, organizers already have lofty goals.

"We'd like to see it in the Winter Olympics some day," Roberts said.

For now Roberts is being a little more realistic. He said

In this issue: go out to feel great. One of the hardest parts of making a January resolution to get fit is that the weather seems to be working against you. A new running routine or the addition of a morning walk isn't so appealing when temperatures head into the teens and below. But winter doesn't mean you have to confine your new fitness activities to the gym. There are lots of winter sports that can help you get moving and make peace with our chilly months. In this final installment, we look at activities that — with the help of some weather-friendly clothing — make the winter outdoor fitness season. And check out reporter Jeff Mucciarone's story about ice fishing — another good reason to head outside in winter. As always, talk to your doctor before any new fitness regime. So let's bundle up and head out!



Courtesy photo.

he wanted to bring in more junior races, which would help develop young talent, which is the surest way to keep a sport growing. He also simply wanted to encourage people to get out in the winter and stay active.

"The sport is beginner-friendly," Roberts said. "You can really use off-the-shelf equipment. You don't need fancy tires. Racers are trying to have a good sort of low-key local vibe."

Even though the equipment is basic, it is still more than what is needed with a traditional summer triathlon, according to Steve Flagg, owner of the Nordic Skier in Wolfeboro.

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Flagg said in the summer an athlete can easily get a pair of running shoes, something to swim in and some sort of bike. But in the winter, an athlete needs cross-country skis, a mountain bike, warm clothing, etc. This may be a turn-off for a casual racer.

Flagg has seen first-hand the rise of traditionally niche sports. He has been an avid cyclist and cross-country skier his entire life, well before Lance Armstrong and Kris Freeman made them cool. He was a bit skeptical about the popularity of winter triathlons because, he said, people seem to have an aversion to winter sports in general.

"I don't know what it is," Flagg said. "I don't know why there is this mental block."

Flagg pointed to the Abenaki Winter Triathlon, which is a different variation and

includes cross-country skiing, horseshoe racing and skating and will be held Saturday, Feb. 19, in Wolfeboro. He said this event consistently gets 20 to 30 people while the summer equivalent gets filled almost immediately. But Roberts hopes that love of summer triathlons will help popularize the ones in the winter.

There is great potential for cross-over from summer triathletes who use winter triathlons as a way to shake up their training.

"Running and riding a bike are essential parts of a summer triathlon," Roberts said. "So for athletes to get extra practice in the winter, it is a good thing. Cross-country skiing is really the swimming of the winter. It is very technical."

Goooooooooal!

NH loves a good game of hockey

By Tori Loubier
tloubier@hippopress.com

All you need is a pond, cold weather and a good group. Throw in a few sticks and some mouth guards and you've got yourself a game. Many people still enjoy hockey — now one of the few professional full-contact sports — in its most primal state.



Give a man a pond, he will make ice

A self-employed landscaper who does stone work, John Prendergast, 47, of Portsmouth fills his schedule up with his band and weekly radio show at WUNH Durham.

"I don't ski and I work outside, so I'm always rooting for minimal snow to keep busy. Hockey is just about the only use I have for winter," Prendergast said.

Growing up on the New Hampshire seacoast, Prendergast never played ice hockey. But being from New England, he was under an unwritten contract to like all New England sports.

Watching the Boston Bruins in the '70s and '80s, the closest he came to a stick and puck was street hockey with the neighbors. However, his college years at UNH pulled him to become a hockey fan, as he watched the Wildcats throw fish on the ice after every goal. It was there, at the old Snively arena on campus (now the Whittemore Center), that he taught himself how to skate during free open skate time weekdays and weekend afternoons.

After spending a few years down south, Prendergast was called back to his northern roots and he began playing hockey regularly in 1991.

"I lived across the street from the South Cemetery in Portsmouth and basically took over the pond in the middle of the cemetery," Prendergast said. "I'd shovel the entire surface after every snow storm, run hoses across the street to cure the cracks at night and skate almost every day."

As his pond-grooming skills developed, so did a team: "I started organizing games on the weekends and a pretty good pond hockey scene grew out of that," he said.

The crowd he drew to the pond went on to rent ice time at Jackson's Landing in Durham in the mid-'90s, an effort spearheaded by Prendergast's band mate and friend, Dennis Randall, the CEO and founder of apparel company Earthtec.

Eventually, the group that had begun on a small pond decided it was time to move up.

NH firefighters and policemen face off at the 2nd annual Children's Hospital Battle of the Badges at the Verizon Wireless Arena. Courtesy photo

They entered the B-League shortly after The Rinks in Exeter opened.

"The B-League was equal parts chippy and hilarious, like *The Bad News Bears* meets *Slap Shot*. It was supposed to be the more open league, with experienced players playing in the A-League. But some teams were stocked with ringers who should have been in the A-League and others had people like me who had never played organized hockey before," said Prendergast. In the second season, his team made it to the finals.

Pond vs. rink

"I prefer pond hockey if the ice is good," Prendergast said. "There's so much freedom and room to skate. There's a great etiquette to pond hockey. Anyone can play and the good skaters can have fun right alongside the beginners. That's not really true of any other sport."

While organized hockey gave Prendergast fast-paced competition and the fulfillment of knowing he was playing games that "meant something," the formality didn't thrill him.

"We [would have] three full lines at forward and I had to wait two shifts to get back on the ice," Prendergast said. "Competitive hockey can bring out the best and worst in people. Some of the nicest, most polite people off the ice can be the most chippy on the ice."

"On the ponds, whoever shows up with a stick is in the game." Throw in a few Canadians and Prendergast is a happy man. "They were some of my favorite people to play with ... they just get it."

Stick and puck

If you aren't on the Manchester Monarchs and don't have a pond to play on, all is not lost. Places like the West Side Arena in Manchester offer a good bargain.

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together for the past three or four years,” said Roger Grandmason of the Arena. “A few guys come in and most of the time they don’t know each other and just skate for fun.”

Monday thru Friday, from 9 to 11 a.m., Stick and Puck is offered to the community as a relatively inexpensive way to play a good game of ice hockey. The Arena charges \$7 per person and goalies are free.

Grandmason loves the sport but strives to get away from its stereotypical aggression. This is why the number-one rule is no fighting.

“We try to discourage anybody under age 16. This is not supposed to be competitive,” Grandmason said. Most of the time, Stick and Puck benefits young players out of college who enjoy playing but didn’t want to go professional, as well as beginners and those just looking for exercise. “We mostly have guys that are between 25 and 30 and work second or third shift. They are looking for a place to play in their off hours.”

The Dover Ice Arena offers the same sort of opportunity. Monday through Friday, at various hours, the arena offers stick and puck, co-ed pick-up and men’s and women’s hockey hours.

“It’s an opportunity for people that have long lunch hours or who work varied hours that just want to come out and skate,” said Ray Pasquale of the arena. “They can play a strong hockey game — kind of like recreational basketball — you can just walk right on [the ice].”

If you’re cold, hike faster

Snowshoes for leisure and fitness

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Snowshoeing is not a one-size-fits-all sport.

There is no minimum speed you are supposed to go, no performance level you are expected to reach. You can hike in the snow with or without poles. And you don’t even need much snow.

All you need is a pair of snowshoes and an appreciation for winter weather and the snow-covered scenery of the Granite State’s trails.

New Hampshire boasts hundreds of miles of hiking trails in its state parks and forests, and that does not even take into account private, federal and municipal land or the 7,000 miles of public and private snowmobile/multiple-use trails.

“Snowshoers would be allowed on snowmobile trails as well as what would potentially be a biking or hiking trail in the summertime,” said Jennifer Codispoti, program director at the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation. The Division promotes the sport with cross-country skiing.

The winter walking activity has grown in popularity over the past few years as it doesn’t require a lot of experience or equip-

ment, Codispoti said. “It’s also accessible,” she said. “You can go in your back yard or take a day trip somewhere else in the state.... You can hike for however long you want.”

Want to watch...or play?

• The **1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Classic** will be held in White Park in Concord, Jan. 28-30. Teams from all over the Northeast will compete in 4-on-4 games during the tournament on White Park Pond in the city where organized hockey began in the U.S. Visit www.blackicepondhockey.com or call Chris Brown at 410-1824 or David Gill at 225-8690.

• Watch firefighters and police from across New Hampshire play ice hockey against each other at the annual **CHaD Battle of the Badges** hockey match on Sunday, April 9, at 5 p.m. at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester, 644-5000, verizon-wirelessarena.com. The event will benefit the Children’s Hospital in Dartmouth. Last year’s champs were the New Hampshire Firefighters. This event has raised close to \$200,000 in the last two years to support the children and families of CHaD. To purchase tickets (\$10 general admission, free for kids under age 10), visit chadhockey.org or call 650-3437.

ment, Codispoti said.

“It’s also accessible,” she said. “You can go in your back yard or take a day trip somewhere else in the state.... You can hike for however long you want.”

In addition to its 30-plus miles of snowshoe-friendly trails, Gunstock Mountain in Gilford offers a nine-mile single-track trail specially built for the activity.

“It’s a good track,” said Paul McNeil, manager of the Gunstock Nordic Center. “It has the scenic stuff around the brooks, strenuous climbs and flat rolling trails.”

Since the Christmas weekend blizzard buried eastern New England, the packed powder trails at Gunstock have been receiving coats of fresh powder and are in prime condition, he said. Rocky trails do not make for a pleasant snowshoeing experience, he added.

“If you really want a good workout, go where it’s not packed down so you [get] the loft of the weight distributed on the shoes,” Codispoti said. “With snowshoeing you can tailor [the activity] to however you’re feeling and what you want to do.”

The average snowshoer, McNeil said, likely walks at an estimated 3.2 miles per hour, which he said is the same as the average walking speed.

“It’s a leisure activity,” McNeil said.

The health benefits of snowshoeing are

Where to snowshoe

Here are a few snowshoe friendly New Hampshire state parks. Also, check out your local city parks and nature areas, many of which also have snowshoe trails.

Bear Brook State Park, 157 Deerfield Road, Allenstown, 485-9874
Franconia Notch State Park, Route 93, Franconia/Laconia, 745-8391

Miller State Park, Route 101E, Peterborough, 924-3672

Monadnock State Park, 116 Poole Road, Jaffrey, 532-8862

Northwood Meadows State Park, off Route 4, Northwood, 436-1552

Pawtuckaway State Park, 128 Mountain Road, Nottingham, 895-3031

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similar to those of other forms of cardiovascular exercise, Codispoti said. Depending on the intensity of the hike and the terrain, a 150-pound snowshoer could burn an estimated 600 calories per hour, she added.

"If you use poles it will be a better workout because you will be using your arms," Codispoti said. "It's a full-body cardiovascular workout. It benefits every piece of you."

In addition to health benefits, McNeil said one benefit of the strolling sport is just being outside.

"It's about getting out in the winter," he said. "I think that is tremendously important."

Another draw to the activity is that you can rent snowshoes at local trails and stores for a lower price than equipment for other winter sports, such as skiing. On average, Codispoti said, snowshoes can be purchased for less than \$100. Poles' being optional also helps cut the cost of the sport but McNeil said some opt to use them for balance.

"They are not absolutely necessary in all cases but for strenuous climbs they can help on downhills and things like that," McNeil said, adding that the bottoms of the shoes also make the sport downhill-safe.

Snowshoes themselves have also transformed throughout the years. Now they're

made of aluminum, but snowshoes of the past were made with what Codispoti called "catgut," a type of cord prepared from the natural fiber found in the walls of animal intestines, usually sheep or goat. The transition from wood to aluminum made snowshoes much lighter.

McNeil suggested forgoing bulky snow boots to strap your snowshoes onto. Ugg boots, too, were nixed from McNeil's list of proper snowshoeing footwear. "I recommend nice hiking boots that go over the ankle.... Hiking boots help fit the binding and you get a tighter fit. That's all you need," he said. "If you're feet are getting cold you're not moving fast enough."

Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown has become a popular snowshoeing spot for many local organizations and school groups. McNeil recalled hitting local snowshoe trails with his mother when he was in his early 20s. Codispoti also hits the trails annually with her family. The Upper Valley Trails Alliance in Norwich, Vt., hosts moonlight snowshoe hikes for groups during the winter.

"It's an activity you can enjoy with everyone," McNeil said. "That's probably the key right there."

Slippery slopes

Ice climbing demands a good grip

By Jeff Mucciarone
jmucciarone@hippopress.com

More than two decades ago, Al Hospers was living in Boston. He'd been rock climbing for several years when one of his friends urged him to try ice climbing.

Borrowing a few pieces of equipment, Hospers gave it a try and found he liked it. His first climb was in Crawford Notch. He said he immediately found he needed more. Within the year, Hospers and his now-wife joined the Appalachian Mountain Club's ice climbing program.

"The thing I like about it is being outside in the wintertime," said Hospers, who has been ice climbing ever since. "It's really cool to be out in the snow and ice ... I like the idea of climbing a vertical tour of the ice. The ice is very ephemeral. The same general ice climb may form year after year after year and remain the whole winter. But every time you go up it, there are differences in it, in a given day, and even on the same day ... as the temperature warms up and the texture and feeling and plasticity changes."

Ice climbing probably isn't for the faint of heart. It's pretty serious stuff, but novice climbers can put their trust in time-tested, experienced guides to get started on a new winter sport.

Hospers, now an experienced climber and guide with the International Mountain Climbing School in North Conway, said people can try out ice climbing with a couple lessons. Then they can step up to hiring a guide or a guide service to take them on a climb. The International Mountain Climbing School is one of the largest international mountain climbing schools. It's been around since the 1970s and the owner, Rick Wilcox, was the first New England man to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

"It takes a certain amount of balance and focus," Hospers said. "That's the thing about climbing in general, it definitely requires a level of focus and attention that's

different than other things. Everything athletic ... requires some level of focus ... but you can't be thinking of other things when you're looking at the ice and trying to figure out where to swing your tool. When I'm doing it, I'm completely in that moment. I'm not thinking about music. I'm not thinking about whatever problems I have at work. I'm focused on that moment. ... If you're not, everything can fall apart pretty quickly."

There are barriers to entry into the ice climbing world, however. Lots of gear is required and it isn't cheap. It wouldn't be unusual to see a climber walking around in more than \$1,000 worth of gear — that's not just the guides. Climbers need boots, crampons, a helmet, ice axes, warm gloves, a waterproof jacket and pants and layers of warm clothing.

"Ice climbing has a lot to it," Hospers said.

The boots aren't just typical snow boots; they are made of hard plastic that allow climbers to strap their crampons to them. Crampons feature an array of spikes that climbers use to gain traction when maneuvering up the ice.

"That's how you keep your feet from slipping," Hospers said, adding climbers kick the crampons into the ice to get a foothold and to allow them to move up an ice wall.

Climbers use ice axes to dig into the ice and to hold themselves upright. Climbers go from a somewhat crouched position to stand up and swing the ax into the ice — all the way up the ice wall. Climbers feel the strain of ice climbing mainly in their forearms and hands, from the swing of the ice ax. Climbers have to hold the ax and swing it in a specific way. Climbing uses a large amount of energy and so conserving energy is important.

All the gear climbers need is another reason to start with a guide service, which would provide all the necessary gear, aside from your own warm clothing. That way,

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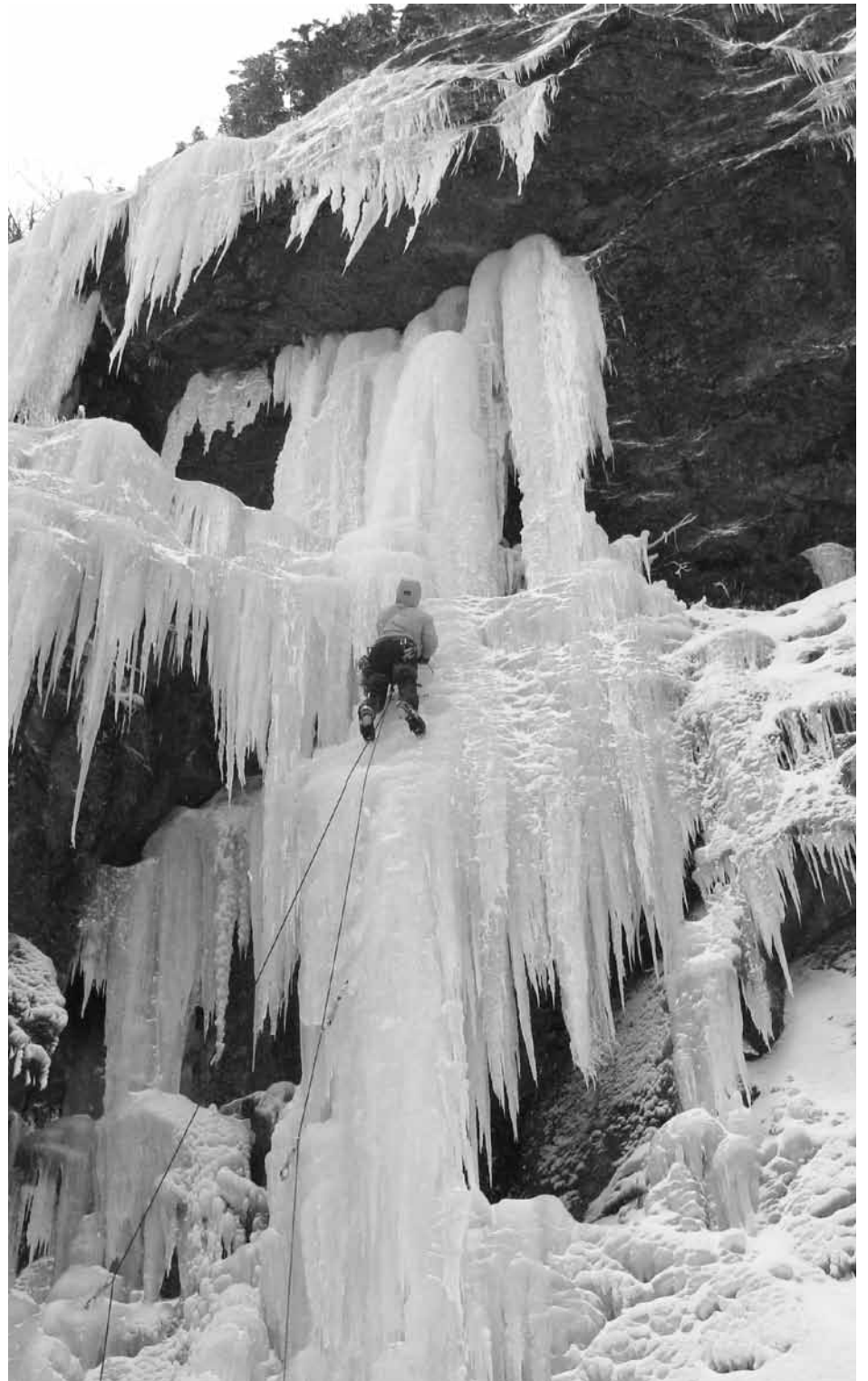


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Al Hospers tackles a climb. NEClimbs.com photo.

people can see if they like it enough to make the investment in getting their own gear. There are also places where climbers can rent equipment, Hospers said.

Rock climbing and ice climbing are similar — both are all about balance, Hospers said. If you have a good sense of balance, then you can be a successful climber without great upper body strength.

"How you work your feet up," said Hospers, who has spent significant time climbing the Canadian Rockies, where many of the climbs are long, drawn-out days. "How to balance yourself in different positions. That's really an important part of the whole thing."

It's serious business. Hospers said ice climbing is as dangerous as or more danger-

ous than other outdoor activities. He said it's probably more dangerous than rock climbing because the ice changes all the time.

"That's another part of it — you're completely attuned to what it's like, what it feels like, the movement over the ice — it's really a special thing," Hospers added. "Certain kinds of ice are like wax.... Different kinds are very smooth or hard and brittle, and you have to learn how to read all that..."

"There's some amazing climbs in New Hampshire," Hospers said, noting Dropline in Crawford Notch, which is an 80-foot pillar of ice, which climbers call a test piece — a difficult climb that tests whether or not you can do it.

Kick-start your workout

Looking for the boot camp fitness experience? Here are a few organizations that have offered camps locally.

- **Fit To Be Toned** (www.fittobetoned.com, 505-0048)
- **Get Fit NH Boot Camp** (www.getfitnh-bootcamp.com, 344-2651)
- **NLP Fitness Bootcamp** (nlpstrength.com, 627-7500)

- **On The Move Fitness & Conditioning** (289-3088, www.onthefit.net)

- **Training Effects NH** (434-9281, billy@trainingeffectsnh.com, www.trainingeffectsnh.com)

- **Training Zone NH** (668-2300, info@trainingzonenh.com, www.trainingzonenh.com)

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Continued from page 14

ing crowd. Hall retired about 13 years ago to run his bait shop at 5 Lewis Lane. He carries all the essentials, from gear and bait for panfish to tackle for lake trout.

It can be competitive and when fisherman hear a certain pond is hot, they do tend to congregate. That's not always the best thing for a fishery. Earlier this month, Turkey Pond in Concord was particularly productive.

Another plus for ice fishing is access. In the summer, not everyone has a boat and so not everyone can get everywhere on a water body. The playing field is equalized on the ice as anybody can walk wherever they want on the ice.

On top of the ice, fishermen need not worry about scaring away fish. Throw the football around to warm up. Use a little Hibachi to grill up some hot dogs. You're probably not disturbing any fish underneath the thick ice.

If you're not seeing any action on a given day, you might be out of luck, but you also might just need to change it up. Try a different lure or bait. Maybe a different depth will do the trick. Try a different location. Ask other ice fishermen what's working for them. Ice fishermen will usually share their tricks.

Myth, busted

There's a vision of ice fishing that many people have. Actual ice fishermen are aware of it. Some probably play out the vision themselves. But the vision of "ice drinking," using ice fishing as an excuse to drink, isn't necessarily reality.

Ice fishing is not just an excuse to get away from the wife and to have a few beers. That contingent exists for sure, but there's more to the story than sitting around an ice hut with cigars and bad bourbon, as Beauchesne put it.

"Escapes are different things for different people," Beauchesne said.

For one, it's cold outside, so getting out on the ice just to have a few beers might not seem like that much fun for everyone, considering they could probably have a few drinks in the comfort of their home or a bar. For the most part, Beauchesne said, if people are ice fishing, they're ice fishing. That's certainly what he's doing.

Hall says Beauchesne never stops moving. He constantly moves from hole to hole. He's frequently trying different baits and lures. There's no time for drinking. And his hands are always busy with something else.

"There is a little more thinking in play," Beauchesne said.

Not your grandfather's ice fishing

While Beauchesne may have had luck using a tip-up when he caught a crappie earlier this month, the rest of the four or five hours he spent on the ice that day yielded nothing from tip-ups. He did, however, have plenty of luck jigging.

Using a small rod and reel, maybe two feet long or so, ice fishermen lower a jig head into the water and bounce it up and down slightly, creating vibrations and hopefully something that interests a passing fish.

While jigging, Beauchesne uses a small jig head, which is a small circular ball with an eye on it attached to a hook, with several tiny meal worms slipped onto the hook. Fisherman use wax worms, meal worms, salmon eggs and different types of larvae. Even larger bass and pickerel will munch on the tiny jig head. Fisherman use larger jig heads when they're after the bigger lake trout.

The vibrations from the jigging motion attract attention. The jigging motion can be fairly gentle and not all that pronounced. Beauchesne keeps the motion within an area about the size of the circle his thumb and forefinger would make. As the fish gets closer the scent of the bait draws them in even more. And then when they're close enough to see it, the deal has been sealed.

"You'd be surprised how much light gets down through the ice," Beauchesne said, noting that photosynthesis is happening down there with aquatic plants. "In the summer time, we'd be fishing around that [vegetation]. It's the first line of the food chain. In the winter time, we can take that and apply that also...."

Without any special technology, fishermen can try fishing at a variety of depths in a variety of locations on a given water body. Beauchesne said whenever you're on the ice, there are fish somewhere in the water body feeding. It's just a matter of finding them. Without technology, it's a bit of a guessing game.

But technology these days does take some of the guess work out of the equation.

"One of us is about to get slammed," Beauchesne said.

He wasn't guessing. And he was right.

A sonar device provides anglers with a better idea of what's down there. The device sends out a signal and gets one back, all the while translating echoes into colors. Its readings display vegetation as well as what could be fish or other creatures. It also picks up the jig, so fisherman can tell what depth to fish. See a lot of signals that suggest fish, lower or raise your bait to the appropriate level.

"That red line could be a fish in the vegetation," Beauchesne said.

The device acts like a fish finder, something Beauchesne said people wouldn't think twice about using in summer months. This gives fishermen a better chance to be successful.

"And we move around," he said. "Were we in open water in a boat, we wouldn't just park in the middle and say, 'Let's go fishing,' we'd move around. ...Drilling holes is like casting."

Often ice fishermen will jig in one spot and set up tip-ups in several other locations. In most warm-water bodies, fisherman can set up as many as six devices. So Beauchesne could set up five tip-ups and jig in another hole. It's five more chances to catch a fish than you'd have in summer time. (Ice fishermen are limited to two lines when fishing salmon and lake trout lakes.)

"Once you find [fish], you don't have to move around so much, maybe a little circle 10 to 12 feet around," Beauchesne said.

The technological advance in the realm of ice fishing hasn't hit home with its full force in the eastern part of the country. The Midwest, specifically in areas like Minnesota, sort of makes New Hampshire look like it's still stuck in the Stone Age. That's partly because there's simply more time — maybe 30 to 40 days more — out on the ice in that region. That helps, Beauchesne said. There are also just more water bodies on which to fish. Most of the ice fishing products are manufactured out there as well.

New Hampshire Fish and Game hosted Dave Genz, who officials dubbed the father of modern ice fishing, last week. The Northeast's lag behind the Midwest in terms of technology is not because of a lack of quality fishing opportunities. That's hardly the case. Beauchesne said Genz makes it a point to come to New Hampshire to fish.



Mark Beauchesne of NH Fish and Game pulls a largemouth bass out of the ice. JM photo.

Personal responsibility on the ice

In ice fishing, only the fisherman is responsible for his or her safety. Don't call the fire department or Fish and Game looking to find out whether the ice is safe. They don't know for sure and they wouldn't tell you anyway due to liability. It's up to you.

"There's no such thing as safe ice," Beauchesne said. "You could slip and fall and bust your skull."

Many ice fishermen wear "creepers," studded cleats that fit to the bottom of boots, to help people dig into the ice and thus prevent slips and falls.

The ice may grow at different rates in different areas on a single water body, depending on temperature, starting water temperature, wind currents or water currents. It's important to continually check the ice to make sure it stays safe.

"You really can't rely on somebody else," Beauchesne said.

The ice might look like it's still, but there's plenty happening. It shifts, it cracks and it makes noises that don't sound promising. But that's part of the game.

"I heard it pop," Beauchesne said.

Ice fishing and the conditions

Barometric pressure is what's at play. So overcast is great.

If you look outside and see smoke just sort of meandering out of a chimney, not really heading in a particular direction, that's a reasonably good indicator that the barometric pressure is low.

The pressure plays on the fish's swim bladder, affecting its ability to regulate. There's atmospheric pressure in the water too that is greater than outside the water. When there is an increase in pressure out here, there's added pressure down there.

"We're talking miniscule amounts that we'd never notice," Beauchesne said. "But a fish that regulates its ability to swim through its swim bladder does notice. Low-pressure situation, they're comfortable, they can cruise around, eat, do whatever they want. When that high-pressure system is there, they're struggling to regulate their pressure. That adds to that stress that they're already under being half frozen."

Right now there's lots of dissolved oxygen around decaying vegetation. As winter moves on they move off into deeper water, where there will be a better supply of dissolved oxygen, Beauchesne said.

Continued on page 26



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Beauchesne and the largemouth bass... JM photo.

Targeting fish

In warmer months, anglers can cast for a variety of species of fish in New Hampshire depending on the water body. Some anglers like the allure of catching a 10-pound lake trout up north in the Lakes Region, while others prefer enticing 10-inch brook trout to snatch up a small lure or fly. Still others use plastic worms or artificial minnows to garner a strike from a smallmouth bass. Anglers can still target the species of their choice in the winter.

That's not typically how Beauchesne operates, though. He fishes mid-water column in an effort to increase his chances of catching fish above, below and of course in the middle. The small jig heads are tiny enough for palm-sized panfish to munch onto, but enticing enough for big bass or pickerel to snack on as well.

And there's room to be surprised that way. As Beauchesne reeled in fish after fish, it wasn't the same thing over and over again. Different species react differently when hooked. A pickerel darted hard against the rod and then thrashed mightily when it got a look at the hole. Part of the fun is not knowing what you're going to pull up.

But if you're after specific species, check out www.wildlife.state.nh.us, which details what species live in which water bodies in the state, along with the habitat they're likely to be found in. And even if you are targeting, say, bluegill, that doesn't mean a passing bass wouldn't scoop up your bait as well.

Coldwater fish in New Hampshire are brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and landlocked salmon. Warm-water species include large and smallmouth bass, white and yellow perch, black crappie, chain pickerel and northern pike, bluegill and pumpkinseed. Both warm and coldwater fish can live in the same body of water. Check with Fish and Game for specific regulations regarding particular water bodies and species.

New Hampshire's water bodies, for the most part, don't contain harmful chemicals, so eating your catch is perfectly safe and tasty. Panfish like bluegill and black crappie, are particularly good eats and easy to fillet. So enjoy, but, officials say, only take what you need. No need to max out the limit on a particular species if you can't eat them all. Limits for some panfish species can be as much as 25 per day.

When handling fish, be aware of what you've caught. Sunfish, like bluegill or crap-

pie and including bass, do have a sharp point on their fins. Pickerel, which are slimy, won't hesitate to use their toothy grin on your hand. Use wet hands or wet gloves when handling fish. Don't step on the fish or wrap it in a towel. Use needlenose pliers to remove the hook. Anglers who plan to catch and release can use pliers to bend the barbs down on hooks, which minimizes stress on fish. That will make it easier to remove the hook as well.

Licenses

In New Hampshire, people under 16 years old do not need to get a license. People 16 years old or older must obtain a license, which costs \$10 for one day of fishing or \$35 for the season, which stretches from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Out-of-state residents must pay \$53 for their seasonal license. Visit www.wildlife.state.nh.us to purchase a license online. Fish and Game also holds fishing workshops throughout the year.

No lead

Lead sinkers weighing one ounce or less are prohibited in New Hampshire.

Things to bring

- hooks, sinkers and extra fishing line
- scissors or nail clippers
- first-aid kit
- sunscreen — because the glare from the snow and ice can be a killer.
- sunglasses — again, glare.
- needlenose pliers — particularly helpful when de-hooking toothy fish like pickerel.
- bait — small shiners, meal worms or fly larvae. Ask your local bait dealer what's working where.
- Thermos — because you'll need some hot chocolate or soup at some point.
- ice auger — manual augers cost about \$40 new. They're more work than a motorized auger, but they get the job done. Motorized augers can cost more than \$500.
- tip-up — basic tip-ups cost from about \$5 to \$20, but you may get a much better deal at a yard sale in the summer.
- fingerless gloves — or better yet, fingerless gloves that have a cover for your fingers when you don't need them. There are neoprene gloves on the market that cover your entire hand except your thumb and forefinger.
- scooper — something to remove excess ice from holes.

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EVENTS TO CHECK OUT JAN. 27 - FEB. 2, 2011, AND BEYOND



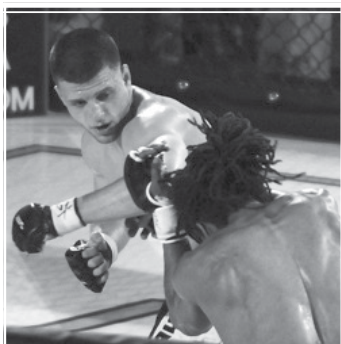
Saturday, Jan. 29

It's icy hot during IceFest at the Castleton Banquet and Conference Center at Cobbett's Pond, 92 Indian Rock Road, Route 111, Windham, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Fest, free and open to all, includes a chili cookoff and ice hockey, ice painting, ice fishing, a cross-country ski race and snow-building competitions, weather permitting. Enjoy free hot dogs and hamburgers, hot chocolate and cookies. Visit www.nhlakes.org/icefest.htm.



Thursday, Jan. 27

It's time for the Concord Garden Club's annual "Art and Bloom" three-day show at the UNH Law Center, 2 White St., Concord, 228-1541, law.unh.edu. The festive gala opening from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. will feature floral interpretations by garden club members and Concord's leading commercial floral designers as they interpret the artwork of the NH Printmakers Guild. Mingle with the artists and designers and enjoy refreshments, a live harp performance and a silent auction featuring art, designer jewelry, a Swenson granite birdbath, photography etc.. to benefit local Concord area charities. (In case of a snow storm, the event will be held Friday night instead of Thursday.) The event is free and open to everyone. Photo of an item from last year's event courtesy of Cole Garden.



Friday, Jan. 28

Fans of mixed martial arts, head to Rockingham Park in Salem (www.rockinghampark.com) to see Calvin "The Boston Finisher" Kattar from Methuen, Mass., one of the top cage fighters in the Northeast, puts his 10-2-0 record as a pro on the line when he takes on the undefeated Luiz Rodrigues (4-0-0) in the main event of Combat Zone 36. Nate Lamotte (9-5-0) from Manchester battles Nuri Shakir (15-16-0) from Nashua, and there will be 16 other evenly matched professional and amateur fights. Ticket prices range from \$40 to \$120. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the matches begin at 8 p.m.



Friday, Jan. 28

The 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Classic tournament begins today at White Park in Concord. Watch teams from all over the Northeast as they compete in 4-on-4 games on White Park Pond in the city where organized hockey began in the U.S. Visit www.blackicepondhockey.com. All proceeds from the event will support skating in Concord.



Saturday, Jan. 29

Nia NH and Yoga, 76 Route 101A, Amherst, presents a didgeridoo journey circle from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with an introduction to the therapeutic principles of the didgeridoo, an overview of shamanic journeying and a discussion of healthy meditation practices. The didgeridoo meditation consists of a 45-minute didgeridoo journey piece performed live followed by group sharing and question-and-answer time. Cost is \$45. Register by calling 562-7525 or visiting www.nianhandyoga.com.

Free: Saxophonics

The Granite State Saxophone Sextet will give a free performance on Sunday, Feb. 6, at 2:30 p.m. at the Bedford Public Library, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-3023.

Cheap: Classical music

The Nashua Symphony Orchestra will perform with pianist Fred Moyers on Saturday, Jan. 29, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua; ticket prices range from \$10 to \$47. Visit www.nashuasymphony.org. And the Granite State Symphony Orchestra will perform on Sunday, Jan. 30, at 2 p.m. at Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord; ticket prices range from \$7 to \$33. Visit www.gssso.org or call 226-4776.

Splurge: Local red carpet experience

The 2011 New Hampshire Theatre Awards ceremony will be held Friday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Ticket prices range from \$37.50 to \$50. Call 668-5588 or visit www.palacetheatre.org.

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Views from our back yard

NH Art Association show at Currier

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

For the 62nd time since 1947, the walls of the Currier Museum of Art will be hung with the works of members of the New Hampshire Art Association (NHAA). For the artists, it is a chance to have their work viewed beside that of world masters. For the public, it a chance to see what is being done in their own back yard.

"This platform re-affirms the rich artistic practices happening in our community," said Nina Bozicnik, assistant curator at the Currier. "The Currier's commitment to artists working in the region has made this collaboration continue as it has."

With 400 members in the NHAA, the majority of whom are from the Granite State, there is a lot of art for the Currier to choose from. According to Bozicnik, each member is allowed to submit two works created in the last two years in any medium. Those works are

New Hampshire Art Association 62nd Currier Exhibition

When: Jan. 29 through March 6; Museum hours are Monday, Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (free admission 10 a.m.-noon).

Where: Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, www.currier.org, 669-6144

Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$8 for students and children under 18 free.

More info: Visit www.nhartassociation.org.

dropped off and then two jurors select the most interesting, aesthetically successful or moving pieces. Typically there are around 50 chosen. This year's jurors are Jen Mergel, Beal Family senior curator of Contemporary Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Dina Deitsch, associate curator of Contemporary Art at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, Mass.

"The outside perspective is critical and offers future ideas as well," Bozicnik said.

The juried portion of the collection will be in the Southwest gallery. This year there will also be a companion exhibit, which will hang in an adjacent bubble space in the Putnam Gallery.

"Since the first Currier exhibit in 1947, many current or former members of the New Hampshire Art Association have gone on to national or international renown," Bozicnik said. "We have collected some of these works and will be displaying them."

The theme for this exhibition will be selected images that convey a notion of place, site or environment. For example, one featured work is "Dunbarton, Apple Trees" by Hope Zanes. Bozicnik said that Zanes was drawn to these apple trees on the side of the road and eventually captured their image. Bozicnik said the picture became surreal and fantastical with Zanes' use of the bichromate process. The exhibit hopes to capture the different ways artists can mine their surroundings.

Other artists in this exhibit include James Aponovich, Carl A. Hyatt and Gary Samson.

Having the exhibit at the Currier allows viewers an opportunity to compare the works of these New Hampshire artists with other



"Portsmouth Harbor Salt Pile Series, S-1" by Carl A. Hyatt. Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, N.H. Museum Purchase: Rosmond deKalb Fund, 1998.11.1

historic pieces, according to Bozicnik.

"We're delighted to be showing at the Currier," said Jinny Eshoo, executive assistant at the NHAA. "We're expecting a wonderful turnout."

The exhibition begins as the NHAA undergoes a change in leadership. Executive Director Billie Tooley has resigned to take a new job, according to Eshoo. The board of directors is reviewing résumés and hopes to have a new director soon. Jane Fithian is bridging the space between directors.

The exhibit opens Jan. 29 and runs through March 6. There will also be a free cell phone audio tour, where visitors can listen to the artists talk about their work in their own words.

30 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

32 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com

33 Classical

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ART LISTINGS

Art events

• **FIRST THURSDAYS** The Currier Museum of Art is open late from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. first Thursday of each month with special programs including live music, lectures and film, at 150 Ash St., Manchester. Call 669-6144 ext. 108 or see www.currier.org for tickets.

• **POTTER'S BOWL** Community Caregivers sixth annual Potter's Bowl fundraiser will be held Fri., Feb. 4, 5-8 p.m. at Promises to Keep, Rt.28, Derry. Tickets cost \$30 and include a handcrafted pottery bowl. Tickets on sale. Call 432-0877 or visit the Derry Masonic Temple, 58 E. Broadway, Derry.

Gallery openings and events

• **IMAGE: THE UNCOMMON PORTRAIT** New multi-artist exhibit through April 24 at the Portsmouth Museum of Art, 1 Harbour Place, Portsmouth. Hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be an opening reception Thurs., Jan. 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Admission is free. Call 436-0332 or e-mail info@portsmouthmfa.org.

• **PRINT OF THE YEAR:** What's New in New Hampshire Printmaking. Work of 50 printmakers will be on display through April 1 at the UNH School of Law, 2 White St., Concord. There will be an opening reception Thurs., Jan. 27, 5-7 p.m. Call 228-1541.

• **ART AND BLOOM** Floral interpretations will be held on Thurs., Jan. 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Fri., Jan. 28, 9-5 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 29, 9-3 p.m. at the UNH Law Center, 2 White St., Concord. The event is free and open to the public. Call 746-4315.

• **LEGACY:** Works of Distinguished Former Faculty will be on display Jan.

29 through April 6 at the Museum of Art, at the University of New Hampshire, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Museum hours are Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. There will be an opening reception on Fri., Jan. 28, 5-7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Call 862-3712 or visit www.unh.edu/moa.

• **LOVE, LUST & DESIRE** Multi-artist show through Feb. 12 at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord. There will be a reception on Fri., Jan. 28, 5-7 p.m. The snow date is Feb. 4. Visit www.mcgowanfineart.com or call 225-2515.

• **LAST NIGHT I DREAMT** Photography of Susan Lirakis on display Feb. 3 through March 4 at the Galletly Gallery, New Hampton School, 70 Main St., New Hampton. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon. There will be an artist reception on Thurs., Feb. 3, 5:30-7 p.m. Call 677-3513 or visit www.newhampton.org.

• **WARM THOUGHTS DURING WINTER'S CHILL** New exhibit of the Hollis Arts Society will be held February through March at Gallery West Pearl, 100 West Pearl St., Nashua. There will be an artist reception on Thurs., Feb. 3, 5-8 p.m. Call 882-1503.

• **NH ART ASSOCIATION 62nd CURRIER EXHIBITION** will run through March 6 at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Museum hours are Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (free admission 10 a.m.-noon) and the first Thursday of each month, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. An artist reception will be held Thurs., Feb. 3,

5:30-8 p.m. Visit www.currier.org or call 669-6144.

• **JASON SHULKIN** Abstract experimental photographer on display Feb. 1 through Feb. 28 at The Steez Gallery, 5 West Pearl St., Nashua. Opening reception will be Thurs., Feb. 3, 6-8 p.m. Visit www.thesteezgallery.com.

• **THE SPLENDOR OF NATURE** Work of Paula Mingolelli and Jean Curley on display Feb 2 through Feb. 27 at The Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Ave., Lowell, Mass. There will be an artist reception Fri., Feb. 4, 6-9 p.m. Visit theloadingdockgallery.com or call Maxine Farkas at 978-349-8069.

• **WILLIAM C. TURNER** Work will be displayed Feb. 5 through March 18 at the Library Arts Center, 58 North Main St., Newport. There will be an opening reception on Fri., Feb. 5, 5-7 p.m. Call 863-3040 or visit www.libraryartscenter.org.

• **TWO NEW SHOWS** Free Flow: A Soosen Muldoon Dunholter Solo Show and Book Arts Invitational Show featuring Michelle Ray, Gail Smuda & Johanna Finnegan-Topitser will be displayed through March 5 at the Soo Rye Gallery, 11 Sagamore Road, Rye. There will be an opening reception on Sat., Feb. 5, 5-7 p.m. Call 319-1578 or visit www.soorye.com.

• **UNKNOWN ARTISTS** Ten relatively unknown artists will showcase their work Feb. 1 through Feb. 28 at the Coffee Factory, 55 Crystal Ave., Derry. There will be an opening reception on Sun., Feb. 6, 6-8 p.m. Call 432-6006.

• **LEONARD RAGOUZEOS & MICHAEL deMENG** work will be on exhibit through March 4 at the New England College Gallery, 188 Foster Hill Road, Henniker. There

will be a reception on Thurs., Feb. 10, 4-6 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free. Call 428-2329 or visit www.nec.edu.

• **JACQUI HAWK** Work will be on display Feb. 12 through March 8 at the Lawrence Library Art Gallery, 15 Main St., Peperell, Mass. There will be an artist reception on Sat., Feb. 12, noon-2 p.m. Call 978-433-0330 or visit www.lawrencelibrary.org.

• **LYNN ADAMS** February artist of the month at Exeter Fine Crafts, 61 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. There will be an artist reception on Sat., Feb. 12, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Call 778-8282.

• **ERICK INGRAHAM** Work will be on display Feb. 1 through May 31 at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Rte. 101A, Milford. Open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be an artist reception on Sun., Feb.13, 1-3 p.m. Visit www.nhantiquecoop.com or call 673-8499.

• **FORM, TRANSFORM:** Etchings and Collographs by Michael Truelsen on display Feb. 6 through March 5 at 119 Gallery, 119 Chelmsford St., Lowell, Mass. There will be a reception on Sat., Feb. 26, 4-6 p.m. Visit www.119gallery.org.

• **UP FROM THE UNDERGROUND ART EXPERIENCE** An evening of art, music and film will be held Sat., Feb. 26, at 7p.m. at the Jam Factory, 1211 Elm St., Manchester. \$10 donation is suggested. All proceeds benefit the Manchester Animal Shelter and Manchester YWCA's Domestic and Sexual Violence Support Groups. Call 731-8163.

• **BLACK & WHITE** Multi-artist

exhibit on display March 15 through May 17 in Gallery 6 at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St., Dover. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. No admission fee is required to view the gallery only. Regular admission applies for families who wish to explore the rest of the museum. Call 742-2002 or visit www.childrens-museum.org.

In the galleries

• **50 UNDER 50** Fifty small works of art under \$50 on display through Jan. 30 at The Loading Dock Gallery, 122 Western Ave., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Visit www.theloadingdockgallery.com or call Maxine Farkas at 978-349-8069.

• **63rd ANNUAL MEMBERS EXHIBITION** will be on display through Feb. 26 in the Sharon Arts Downtown Gallery, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Gallery hours are Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 924-2787 or visit www.sharonarts.org.

• **100 ARTISTS-100 TRIBUTES:** An AIDS Action Project at Artist Proof Studio, Johannesburg" will run through Feb. 19 at the McIninch Art Gallery at Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 North River Road, Manchester. Visit www.snhu.edu.

• **ALL SEASONS BIRDS** Bird photographs by Udo Rauter on display through Feb. 19 at the Epsom Public Library, 1606 Dover Road, Epsom. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 736-9920.

• **AMERICAN TAPESTRY BIENNIAL 8** will run through May 1 at the

American Textile History Museum, 491 Dutton St., Lowell, Mass. Visit www.athm.org or call 978-441-0400.

• **ART CENTER FACULTY EXHIBITION** on view through March 7 in the Currier Museum of Art's Community Gallery, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Visit www.currier.org or call 669-6144.

• **ART ON A STARRY NIGHT** Multi-artist exhibit on display from through Feb. 25 at the Kimball Jenkins Estate, 266 North Main St., Concord. Call 225-3932 or visit www.kimballjenkins.com.

• **CHRISTINE ROOK** January artist of the month at the Leach Library, 276 Mammoth Road, Londonderry. Call 432-1132 or visit www.londonderryrh.org.

• **CORI CAPUTO** work will be on display through January at Le Club Boutique, 41 Vaughn Mall, Portsmouth. Visit www.coricaputo.com.

• **CORI CAPUTO** 20 works will be on display through Jan. 31 at the Portable Pantry's Tasty Alternative Gallery, 12 Hanson St., Rochester. Visit www.coricaputo.com.

• **CROSSCURRENTS** Works by the faculty and selected alumni of Chester College will be on display at the Robert M. Larsen Gallery, 29 School St., Concord. Call 224-2341.

• **FINE ART EXHIBIT & SALE** Hollis Arts Society's Board of Directors will host event throughout January at Re/Max Properties, 2 Ash St., Hollis. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 882-1503.

• **FRANK M. INGALLS** New permanent photography exhibit at the Florence Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua. Call 883-0015.

• **GODFREY (JEFF) SLUDER**



LOCAL COLOR

• **Artist proof:** The Artist Proof Art Gallery will celebrate 20 years of business with a special student show on Friday, Jan. 28, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Atkinson Resort and Country Club, 85 Country Club Drive, Atkinson. The event is free and open to the public. Alyson Stoddard Thompson, who founded Artist Proof in 1991, said there have been close to 1,000 students since its opening and the gallery now has on average 60 students per week. Many of the current students have been with Thompson for 10 years. She attributes her success to her focus on each student's individuality and being able to bring forward their strengths. The Gallery is located in Hampstead, and Thompson began teaching in 1978. She said she feels as if she did not master her profession as an artist until she began teaching. Her students' works have been on rotating display at the Lobster Q Restaurant, 416 Emerson Ave., Hampstead. Visit www.artistproofartgallery.com or call 329-5270.

• **Nashua gets abstract:** The work of Jason Shulkin, an abstract artist who graduates from the New Hampshire Institute of Art this May, will be on display Feb. 1 through Feb. 28 at the Steez Gallery, 85 West Pearl St., Nashua. There

will be an artist reception on Thursday, Feb. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. Shulkin's artwork ranges from macro photography of water drops to 3-D renderings of liquid, where "using a stereo viewer the images will pop out off the paper and give a deeper level of composition to the pieces as well as forcing the viewer to interact with the art more than simply looking at it on a wall," Shulkin wrote via e-mail. Shulkin also wrote that he enjoys blending science and art and tries to stimulate as many senses as possible. Visit www.jasonshulkin.com.

• **Art hits Manchester downtown:** When thinking of new banners to hang in downtown Manchester, Intown Manchester turned to the New Hampshire Institute of Art. Several NHIA students submitted designs that represented specific images of downtown for possible banners for 2011. The winner was Ryan Haywood, who has been chosen to create six new banner designs, which will hang on street light poles on Elm, Hanover and Commercial streets. There is no denying Haywood's unique style, which has a bit of Ralph Steadman to it. His work can be seen at www.ryanhaywood.com. —Adam Coughlin

Work will be on display at the Forest Society's Conservation Center, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 224-9945.

• **HAND AND MOUSE** Work of three students from the NH Institute of Art will be featured in January at the Wine Studio, 53 Hooksett Road, Manchester. Call 622-9463 or visit www.thewinestudionh.com.

• **HELENE LEVASSEUR** Paintings of local scenery on display through February at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Call 589-4610 or visit www.nashualibrary.org.

• **ILLUSTRATOR EXHIBIT** Work by several children's book illustrators is on display at the Brush Gallery and Artists Studio, 256 Market St., Lowell, Mass. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Visit www.thebrush.org or call 978-459-7819.

• **JACQUI HAWK** Artist's work is on display at Stella Blu Restaurant, 70 East Pearl St., Nashua, 578-5557 through Feb. 20. Her work can also be seen at Salon 263 Fine Art Boutique, 263 Main St., Nashua, 594-9190.

• **JANE KNOX** will have first exhibition at Main Street Art, 75 Main St., Newfield. Gallery hours are Saturdays through Feb. 19, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit www.newfieldsart.org.

• **JODI CLAYTON** January artist at Exeter Fine Crafts, 61 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Call 778-8282.

• **MAGICAL MOMENTS** Multi-artist exhibit through Feb. 28 at the Manchester Artists Association Gallery, 1528 Elm St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thursday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Call 785-6437.

• **MANCHESTER ARTS** website presented by the city arts commission, manchester-arts.org.

• **MATTHEW GRAY** Works will be on display through Feb. 4 at the Lawrence Library Art Gallery, 15 Main St., Pepperell, Mass. Call 978-433-0330 or

In a gallery near you



Manchester in Bedford

The work of Judy Gelinas, Donna Karam and F. A. Bonya, three members of the Manchester Artists Association, will be on display through Feb. 7 in the Bedford Library gallery, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. Every month the Manchester Artists Association features a different panel of artists with works in acrylic, oils, watercolor, collage or photography. Visit www.manchester-artists.org. Work of Judy Gelinas.

visit www.lawrencelibrary.org.

• **MOLLY WENSBERG** work will be on display through Jan. 31 at the New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St./Route 101A, Milford. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., daily. Call 673-8499.

• **MONTHLY ARTISTS** Manchester Artists Association artists Judy Gelinas, Donna Karam, and F. A. Bonya will be featured through Feb. 7 at the Bedford Library, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. Call 472-3023.

• **NH SOCIETY OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTISTS** will hold its 12th annual member exhibit and sale through Feb. 5, 1-4 p.m. at the Town Hall Gallery, 10 Front St., Exeter. Visit www.nhspa.org.

• **NEW HAMPSHIRE: NOW AND THEN** NH Art Association exhibit will be held through Feb. 25 at the Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery, 136 State St., Portsmouth. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Call 431-4230.

• **NEWNESS** A three-woman show through Jan. 30 at artstream gallery, 56 North Main St., Rochester. Visit www.artstreamstudios.com or call 330-0333.

• **OPEN STUDIO NIGHTS** third Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. at Verdigris Artisans, 88 N. Main St., Suite 205, Concord, www.verdigrisartisans.com.

• **PASTELS** by Nashua artist Pauline Dailey will be on display in the Image Gallery at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, free and open to the

public. Call 589-4610.

• **PAULA FURLONG AND AUDREY AUGUN** work will be on display through January at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis. The program is free and open to the public. Call 465-7721 or visit www.hollis.nh.us/library.

• **PAULA PESTANA** January artist of the month at the Wilton Gregg Free Library, 7 Forest Road, Wilton. Call 654-2581 or visit www.wilton-librarynh.org.

• **REVIEW:** Recent Work by UNH Alumni will be on display through April 6 at the Museum of Art, at the University of New Hampshire, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Museum hours are Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Call 862-3712 or visit www.unh.edu/moa.

• **SMALL MOMENTS** Work of Janice Donnelly will be on display through April 25 at the second floor gallery at UNH-Manchester, 400 Commercial St., Manchester. Visit www.janicedonnelly.com.

• **SOME OF MY FAVORITE THINGS** New exhibit by the Hollis Arts Society will be held through January at the Greater Nashua Mental Health Center at Community Council, 100 West Pearl St., Nashua. Gallery hours are weekdays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., unless a meeting is in progress. Call Pat Hurd at 882-1503.

• **SUBURBAN MEMORY** Work of artist Cindy Rizza will be on display Jan. 31 through May 15 in the first

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RUMORS

Jan. 14 - 29

A Comedy by Neil Simon

Jimmy Dunn's
FUNNY GUYS, NAUGHTY GIRLS & GREAT SAX
BURLESQUE, COMEDY, ROCK AND ROLL

Comedy by:
Jimmy Dunn,
Frank Santorelli,
Bernadette Pauley
& Mike Whitman

Featuring:
Bliss Burlesque Dancers

Music by:
Carte Blanche and
The Left Bank

Sat, Feb 12
8pm

603.668.5588
PALACETHEATRE.ORG

THEATER

Bringing stories to life

Staged readings performed – free

By Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

Reader's theater, in which actors do not go off book, allows audience members to become engrossed in the story without some of the distractions of a traditional play, according to one actor. It also offers a challenge to thespians unlike any other.

In 2006, Deborah Shaw helped form Off the MAP, the staged reading program of the Milford Area Players. These staged or dramatic readings would be of plays that either were far too complex to stage or wouldn't have been hits to a wide audience but were well-written. The dramatic readings are often put on after only two or three rehearsals, which keeps them fresh for the actors. While some readings include performances, a few props and costumes, others simply have actors sitting and reading from the scripts, according to Shaw.

"Part of the challenge is getting the audience to forget you have the script," Shaw said.

Off the Map's most successful dramatic reading is *Animal Farm*, which they will perform for free on Sunday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. The performance is a tune-up for the American Association of Community Theatre regional festival in March. *Animal Farm* is one of two performances representing New Hampshire in the festival, which is held in Concord. The show came in second in the New Hampshire Community Theatre Association festival in late 2010.

"If you haven't seen a staged reading before — most people don't get it," Shaw said. "But through them we can really bring stories to life. People lose themselves in the story as opposed to watching who is doing what on stage."

Shaw said performing a staged reading is challenging for an actor because it is a special type of craft.

"Many people say you can't create a character until the script is out of hand," Shaw said. "Well, we don't believe that."

The actors can't use their full bodies, can't take a breather and are on stage the entire show — and they must listen to each other carefully so they know they're telling the same story. Many actors also play multiple characters and so they must shift vocal quality.

"One line you may be the narrator and the very next line you're a pony speaking with a child's voice and then immediately you're an old goat," Shaw said.

While there isn't a lot of physical movement



The cast of *Animal Farm*. Aaron Duarte photo.

in *Animal Farm*, Shaw said there are lots of light changes, sound effects and even some singing.

"I've had people come up to me and say they saw the play and totally understood the essence of *Animal Farm*," Shaw said. "They read it in high school but it wasn't until our show that they got it."

While a staged reading can be the dramatic conclusion of a script, it can also help at the beginning. For example, a free staged reading of *Baby Shoes* will be performed on Sunday, Jan. 30, at 2 p.m. These readings will be of four new works from local playwrights Dana Biscotti Myskowski, John Sefel, Donald Tongue and Lowell Williams. These works are based on Ernest Hemingway's six-word short story, "For Sale: Baby shoes, never worn."

This will be the second staged reading of the works, according to Matthew Cahoon, president of theatre KAPOW.

The difference between these staged readings and *Animal Farm* is that these works will ultimately be produced as a traditional play. But, as they are new, Cahoon said staged readings allow the scripts an introduction to the audience. They also allow the writers to see what works and what falls flat so they're able to make changes.

"Audience members seem to really like the ownership of being involved with a play from the beginning," Cahoon said.

Animal Farm

When: Sunday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m.

Where: The Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford

Tickets: Admission is free.

Info: www.milfordareaplayers.org

Baby Shoes

When: Sunday, Jan. 30, at 2 p.m.

Where: Studio 99, Mechanic St., Nashua

Tickets: Admission is free.

Info: www.tkapow.com

floor library at UNH-Manchester, 400 Commercial St., Manchester. Visit www.cindyrisza.com.

• **SYNTHESISIONS** Work of artist Lynda Schlosberg will be on display through Feb. 14 at the New Hampshire Institute of Art, 77 Amherst St., Manchester. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon. Visit www.nhia.edu or call 836-2573.

• **TAHITI AND OTHER ISLANDS** Photographic work of Jayson Gleneck on display through January at Canal Art and Framing, 1 Water St., Nashua. Call 886-1459.

• **THE ART OF MY NATURE** work of Ron Plante will be on display through Feb. 19 at the Massabesic Audubon Center, 16 Audubon Way,

Auburn. Call 224-9909 or visit www.nhaudubon.org.

• **THE SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS** Work of top high school art students will be on display to the public through Feb. 12. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 437-5200 ext. 5112.

• **THE WORLD THROUGH MY EYES** photography exhibit by Josh Hutchins on display through January at the UNH Center for Graduate & Professional Studies, 286 Commercial St., Manchester, 4th floor. Visit www.unhm.unh.edu.

THEATER LISTINGS

• **The Acting Loft**
670 North Commercial Street,
Manchester in the Jefferson Mill

Building. 666-5999, actingloft.org

• **Actorsingers**
219 Lake St., Nashua, 889-9691,
actorsingers.org

• **Adams Memorial Opera House**
29 W. Broadway, Derry,
437-0505, derryarts.org

• **Amato Family Center for the Performing Arts at Souhegan Valley Boys & Girls Club**
56 Mont Vernon St., Milford,
672-1002 ext. 2, svbgc.com

• **Andy's Summer Playhouse**
Wilton, 654-2613,
andyssummerplayhouse.org

• **Anselmian Abbey Players**
Dana Center, 641-7700

• **Bedford Off Broadway**
Meetinghouse Rd, Bedford, 557-

Curtain Calls



Ted Gatsas, Michael L'Ecuyer and Emily Shakra at 2010 Palace Theatre Fundraiser. Courtesy photo.

• **Job fair in Plymouth:** In last week's Hippo, the article about the 2011 NH Pro Theatre Audition and Job Fair incorrectly listed the website to register. The correct website is www.oz.plymouth.edu/~mkizer/NHPTA or www.nhprotheatre.org.

• **Theater awards finalists:** The NH Theatre Awards will be held Friday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. The finalists have already been announced. *Crossing Delancey* and *Scotland Road* by the Winnepesaukee Playhouse, *Freud's Last Session* and *Tartuffe* by the Peterborough Players and *The Comedy of Errors* by Advice to the Players were all nominated for Best Professional Production — Drama/Comedy. The Best Original Playwright Category for community theater is down to *A Christmas Carol: The Musical Ghost Story* by Joel Mercier and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by David Preece. The top five finalists for Best Youth Production are *13* and *The Wedding Singer* by Peacock Players, *A Year with Frog and Toad*

by the Majestic Academy of Dramatic Arts, *Dick Tracy* by Andy's Summer Playhouse and *Little Women* by Moco Arts. Of course, there are many more finalists in a variety of categories. Find out the winners live by attending the award ceremony. Call 668-5588.

• **First chairs in Concord:** The Granite State Symphony Orchestra will perform "GSSO Principals" in January on Sunday, Jan. 30 at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. The concert begins with a solo performance and then the number of performers increases with each work until it concludes with an octet. The first piece will be Stravinsky's "Three Pieces for Clarinet Solo," which will be performed by clarinetist Steven Jackson. The concert concludes with the Schubert Octet. Ticket prices range from \$7 to \$33. Visit www.gssso.org or call 226-4776.

• **Palace fundraiser:** Time to have your table do the talking. The Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, will hold its third annual Table Talk fundraiser on Friday, March 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Derryfield Restaurant Ballroom, 625 Mammoth Road, Manchester. Twenty to 25 tables are creatively designed by local businesses and organizations. Attendees are then able to vote for their favorite design as well as bidding on live auctions and enjoying dinner and performances by members of the Palace Theatre Teen Company. "It's a very interesting event," said Kerri Christopher, director of public relations for the Palace Theatre. "You wouldn't believe some of the tables that are decorated. They're outrageous." Christopher said it was a fun night and a great chance to network. This year the public will get a chance to see the tables as they will be on view prior to the event from noon to 4 p.m. Last year's winning tables were by Apotheca Flowers and Tea Chest and Bedford Cosmetic and Restorative Dentistry. Call 668-5588 or visit www.palacetheatre.org.

—Adam Coughlin

On stage



Insert title here

Not Your Mom's Musical Theater will perform the New Hampshire premiere of the Broadway musical [title of show] on Friday, Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. at The Lyceum at the Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester. The musical is about, get ready for it, writing a show about writing a show and includes only a cast of four and a keyboard. The production features Jennifer Mallard of Manchester, Joey T. of Londonderry, Heidi Welch of Hillsboro and Michael Gallagan of Manchester. Anja Parish of Hudson is dance captain and female understudy. Visit www.notyourmomsmusicaltheater.com. Mike Gallagan, Jennifer Mallard, Joey T. and Heidi Welch. Courtesy photo.

Londonderry, madco.org

• **My Act**

myact.org, 429-3950

• **Nashua Theatre Guild**

PO Box 137, Nashua,
03061, 320-2530
nashuatheatreguild.org

• **New Thalian Players**

newthalianplayers.org, 666-6466

• **Nashua Community College Performing Arts Club (PAC)**

505 Amherst St., Nashua,

428-3544

• **The Palace Theatre**

80 Hanover St., Manchester,

668-5588, palacetheatre.org

• **Peacock Players**

14 Court St., Nashua, 886-7000,

peacockplayers.org

• **Profile Chorus**

profilechorus.org

• **School of Theater Arts**

at The Amato Center for

Performing Arts

56 Mont Vernon St., Milford,

672-1002 ext. 20

• **Seacoast Repertory Theatre**

125 Bow St., Portsmouth,

433-4472

• **SNHU Drama Club**

2500 North River Rd., Hooksett

• **Stage One Productions**

Dinner Theatre at the

Chateau Restaurant

201 Hanover St., Manchester

669-5511, stageoneprod.com

• **Yellow Taxi Productions**

yellowtaxiproductions.org

• **TRYST** will be performed through Jan. 30 at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass. Showtimes are 2, 4, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets begin at \$25. Visit www.MerrimackRep.org or call 978-654-4678.

• **RUMORS** will be performed Fri., Jan. 28, and Sat., Jan. 29, at 2 and

7:30 p.m., at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$15 to \$45. Call 668-5588 or visit www.palacetheatre.org.

• **THE LITTLE MERMAID** will be performed on Thurs., Jan. 27, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$8 for children. Call 668-5588 or visit www.palacetheatre.org.

• **LOVE, WHAT'S YOUR PERSPECTIVE** will be performed Fridays, Jan. 28 and Feb. 11 and Saturdays, Jan. 29 and Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. and Sundays, Jan. 30 and Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$14 and \$12 for students and seniors. Call 436-8123 or visit www.playersring.org.

• **CABARET** will be performed through Sat., Jan. 29, at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Shows are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$20-\$30. Visit www.rochesteropera-house.com or call 335-1992.

• **ONCE ON THIS ISLAND** will be performed Fri., Jan. 28, and Sat., Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. and Sundays, Jan. 23 and Jan. 30, at 3 p.m. at the Acting Loft Studios, Jefferson Mill Building, 670 North Commercial St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$18 for ages 13 and up and \$12 for ages 12 and under. E-mail chris@actingloft.org or call 666-5999.

• **TITLE OF SHOW** will be performed on Sat., Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. at the Lyceum in the Upper School of the Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester. Tickets cost \$15. Visit notyourmomsmusicaltheater.com.

• **PROOF** Nashua Theatre Guild will perform on Thurs., Jan. 27, Fri., Jan. 28, and Sat., Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 29 and Sun., Jan. 30 at 2 p.m. at the Janice Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$12 and \$10 for seniors and students. Call 320-2530 or visit www.nashuatheatre.org.

• **OUR TOWN** will be performed Jan. 28 through Feb. 6 at the West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Performances are Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 29, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$24 and \$21 for seniors and students. Visit www.pontine.org or call 436-6660.

• **RICHARD 3.5: LIGHT RUMINATIONS ON MURDER** will be performed on Fri., Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Redfern Arts Center at Keene State College, 229 Main St., Keene. Tickets cost \$7 to \$13 and \$5 for Keene State students. Call 358-2168 or visit www.keene.edu/racbp.

• **JAMES SEWELL BALLET** will perform on Fri., Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester. Tickets cost \$29.50 for adults, \$25.50 for Saint Anselm College faculty, staff, alumni and senior citizens, \$12.50 for NH college students, \$6 for Saint Anselm students. Call 641-7700 or e-mail dana@anselm.edu.

• **CINEMATIC TITANIC** will be shown on Sat., Jan. 29, at 7 and 9:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 South Main St., Concord. Tickets cost \$25-\$67.50. Visit www.ccanh.com or call 225-1111.

• **BABY SHOES** Free staged reading on Sun., Jan. 30, at 2 p.m. at Studio 99, Mechanic St., Nashua. Visit www.tkapow.com.

• **ANIMAL FARM** Milford Area Players will perform a free dramatic reading on Sun., Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Amato Performing Arts Center, 56 Mont Vernon St., Rte.13N, Milford. Visit www.milfordareaplayers.org.

• **KING LEAR** A high-definition

On stage



Nashua gets hot

The Nashua Symphony Orchestra will join forces with pianist Frederick Moyer for the concert "Hot Tempered," to be performed Saturday, Jan. 29, at 8 p.m. at Keefe Memorial Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. The concert will blend the works of Brahms, Wagner, Mahler and Beethoven. Moyer will perform Paul Hindemith's work "The Four Temperaments." This piece has been described as more than a concerto but a ballet for the piano. Moyer has performed in some legendary venues such as Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Sydney Opera House, Windsor Castle, Carnegie Recital Hall, Tanglewood, and the Kennedy Center. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$47. Visit www.nashuasymphony.org or call 595-9156. Frederick Moyers. Courtesy photo.

On stage



There was a cabaret

Rochester Opera House Productions will perform *Cabaret* at the Rochester Opera House in City Hall, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. Show times are Thursday, Jan. 27, and Friday, Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 29, at 2 and 8 p.m. The musical, which won 12 Tony Awards and eight Academy Awards, tells the story of young, confused love in a cabaret in Berlin during the rise of Nazi Germany. Tickets cost \$30 for seating, \$20 for balcony. Visit www.rochesteroperahouse.com or call 335-1992. (L to R) Bartley Mullin, Christopher Gempp, Nevan Urquhart, Kelli Connors, Arik Blanchard Christopher Ferrill. Courtesy photo.

broadcast from the National Theater of London on Thurs., Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Call 436-2400 or visit www.themusic hall.org.

• **ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL** The Saint Anselm College Abbey Players will perform on Thurs., Feb. 3, Fri., Feb. 4, Sat., Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center, Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester. Tickets cost \$8 for adults, \$7 for Saint Anselm College faculty, staff, alumni and senior citizens, \$7 for NH college students, \$6 for Saint Anselm students. Call 641-7700 or e-mail dana@anselm.edu.

• **ANYONE OF US:** Words from Prison will be performed on Fri., Feb. 4, and Sat., Feb. 5, at 8 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$15. Call 436-8123 or visit www.playersring.org.

• **2011 ANNUAL NEW HAMPSHIRE THEATRE AWARDS** will be held Fri., Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$37.50 to \$50. Call 668-5588 or visit www.palacetheatre.org.

• **ORPHANS** will be performed Feb. 4 through Feb. 27 at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Showtimes are 2, 7:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$50 to \$150. Call 433-4472 or visit seacoastrep.org.

CLASSICAL LISTINGS

• **SEEKING MUSICIANS** The Amherst Town Band is seeking new musicians on all instruments. They rehearse Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. in the choral room at Souhegan High School, 412 Boston Post Road, Amherst. Most band members are amateur musicians. Visit www.amhersttownband.org.

• **HOT TEMPERED** Nashua Symphony Orchestra will perform with pianist Fred Moyers on Sat., Jan. 29, at 8 p.m. at the Keefe Memorial

Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Tickets cost \$10-\$47. Visit www.nashuasymphony.org.

• **BARBARA BONNEY** will sing on Sun., Jan. 30, at 2 p.m. in the Paul Creative Arts Center's Johnson Theatre in Durham. Visit www.unh.edu/celebrity or call 862-2290.

• **GSSO PRINCIPALS IN JANUARY** The Granite State Symphony Orchestra will perform on Sun., Jan. 30, at 2 p.m. at Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Tickets cost \$7-\$33. Visit www.gssso.org or call 226-4776.

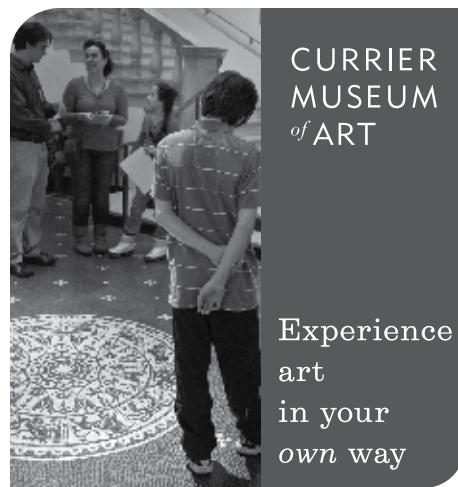
• **MUCHACHOS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS** will host an Open House on Sun., Feb. 6, 1-4:30 p.m. at the Manchester Boys & Girls Club, 555 Union St., Manchester. Call Corps Director, Al Gagne at 228-3971 or visit www.muchachos.org.

• **THE MERRIMACK CONCERT BAND** meets on Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Merrimack Middle School band room, 31 Madeline Bennett Drive, Merrimack. Call Band Director Lelia Dutton at 429-8328. Next rehearsal will be Tues., Feb. 8.

• **THE GRANITE STATE SAXOPHONE SEXTET** will perform on Sun., Feb. 6, at 2:30 p.m. at the Bedford Public Library, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. The concert is free. Call 472-3023.

• **FANFARE 2011** Nashua Symphony Orchestra fundraiser will be held Fri., Feb. 11 at the Crowne Plaza, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua. The event will feature the NSO's Little Big Band and an auction. Tickets cost \$75. Call 595-9156.

• **SOME ENCHANTED EVENING** Women Singing Out! will perform on Sat., Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Exeter Town Hall, 7 Front St., Exeter. Tickets cost \$25. They will also perform on Sun., Feb. 13, at 3 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 1035 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$15. Visit www.womensingingout.org or call 622-0907.



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Sharing the road

How one local ups the cycling ante



Storefront of recently opened Freewheel Cycles in Nashua. Courtesy photo.

By Tori Loubier
tloubier@hippopress.com

An experienced biker of 30-plus years, Garabed Minasian wants to dispense his wisdom and knowledge to the general public. For free.

"I want to better de-mystify ... cycling. Everyone has a lot of different perspectives of what's correct in their own mind. This is not a selling approach," said Minasian, owner of Freewheel Cycles, a recently opened bike shop in Nashua.

To do so, Minasian is offering six free bicycle discussions at his shop, every other Tuesday until March 22.

The first two discussions were held Jan. 9 and Jan. 25. On Feb. 8, the discussion will revolve around bicycle suspension setup. On Feb. 22 tire and tube removal and installation will be addressed; on March 8 the topic is bicycling techniques, and March 22 will cover bicycle frame material.

"We are trying to help people get through the idiosyncrasies. Whether it's maintenance like how to clean your chain or change your tire — the basic stuff — all the way to strength training and all the anatomical stuff," Minasian said.

Biking in the winter? According to Minasian, you'd be surprised: "New England is a hotbed of cyclo-cross," he said.

Cyclo-cross races typically take place in the late fall and winter and consist of many laps around a short course that includes pavement, wooded trails, steep grass hills and obstacles that require the rider to quickly dismount, carry the bike around the obstacle and then remount.

Cyclo-cross is not only Minasian's race of choice but also partly the focus of his bicycle discussions.

Minasian will teach three of the classes; for the other three he has recruited professionals from around the state. One is Kevin Buckley, the owner of Dynamic Fitness in Nashua, who will teach various exercises that are core-based and mimic the singular movement of bicycling.

"It's dynamic [exercise]. You need to recoup more muscle fiber to help develop strength," Minasian said. "[Buckley] will focus on unilateral and lateral movements. If you think about exercising — you're always using one ligament at the same time — cycling is the same thing."

Minasian's other partner, who will be teaching Feb. 8's class on bicycle suspension, used to be a semi-professional in downhill and bicycle racing. "He has a lot of off-roading experience," Minasian said.

Work toward a goal

Start training now and be ready for the 100-mile route of the second annual **Cycle the Seacoast**. The ride begins in Portsmouth on Sunday, May 1. There are 25-, 50- and 100-mile options. There is a \$35 registration fee. Fundraising minimum is \$250 for each participant. Visit www.action.lungusa.org.

Though bicycling has long been a passion of Minasian's, his experience as a shop owner developed more recently. Minasian spent 30 years in the electronics industry as a manufacturing process engineer and is using the skills he developed as an engineer to organize the bicycle discussions.

"[My engineering job] had a lot to do with putting on seminars to educate people on products or equipment. This is a crossover from those days," he said.

Minasian views these discussions as a step away from commercialized selling and toward education. Gearing the talks to a general audience of advanced or beginner riders, Minasian describes them as a "goodwill service to our community, for people who just want to know more."

"Bicycles, you think they are simple but a lot of people don't know elementary stuff like how to change a tire or take a tube out. If they can learn to fix something then they can tell their friends and, well, cycling doesn't have to be so bad," Minasian said.

Push your own pedals

- **The Granite State Wheelmen** is a recreational biking club offering "must-call-ahead-to-confirm, winter trying-to-stay-in-shape-despite-the-cold rides" for all levels ages 18 and over. Rides takes place Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Most rides begin at 82 Little Pond Road in Concord. Orientation rides are offered to novice riders. Call Cathy at 224-0346 or visit granitestatewheelmen.org.
- **Beer & Bikes** events offer a fun exercise challenge followed by a few brews, food, prizes, music and more. Check out Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester, Thursday, Jan. 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m. and/or The Portsmouth Brewery, 56 Market St., Portsmouth, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Call Martha at 888-241-6566 x9001.

DANCE

- **Arthur Murray Dance Studio** 99 Elm St., Manchester, 624-6857, learntodancetoday.com
- **Bliss Healing Arts Center LLC** 250 Commercial St. # 2007, 624-0080, blisshealing.com
- **Dance International Studio** 83 Hanover St., Manchester, 858-0162, importers-exporters.com/DIS.htm
- **Kathy Blake Dance Studios** 3 Northern Blvd. in Amherst, 673-3978, kathyblakedances-studios.com
- **Krystal Ballroom Dance Studio** 352 S. Broadway, Salem, 870-9350, krystalballroom.com
- **Let's Dance Studio** 5 North Main St., Concord, 228-2800, letsdancenrh.com
- **Mill-A-Round Dance Center** 250 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-3880, millaround.com
- **N-Step Dance Center** 2626 Brown Ave Manchester, 03103 603-641-6787 nstepdance.com

- **Paper Moon Dance Center** 515 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-1100, papermoondance.com.
 - **Queen City Ballroom** 21 Dow St., Manchester, 622-1500, queencityballroomnh.com
 - **Royal Palace Dance Studio** 167 Elm St., Manchester, 621-9119, royalpalacedance.com
 - **Senior Activity Center** 70 Temple St., Nashua, 889-6155
 - **Steppin' Out Dance Studio** 1201 Westford St., Lowell, 978-452-1111, steppinoutdance-lowell.com
- Folk dance**

- **AFRICAN DANCE** and drumming workshop taught by Theo Martey on Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Murphy's Gym, 163 Lake Ave., Manchester. The Akwaaba Ensemble features West African drumming and dance. Cost is \$13; purchase a card for \$72 for six weeks. Drums provided if you don't have them. See www.akwaabaensemble.com or call 224-5582.
- **BEGINNERS LINE DANCING** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive, Epsom, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Visit [\[cle9ranch.com\]\(http://www.cir-\) or call 736-9656.](http://www.cir-</div><div data-bbox=)

- **BORDER CITY SQUARES** offers square dance lessons every Mon., 7-9 p.m. First night is free. Dance is held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 4 Watson St., Nashua. See bordercitysquares.freesevers.com or call Cheryl Imbody at 438-2366.
- **CONTRA DANCE** East Concord Community Center, 18 Eastman St., Concord. Beginners, families and singles welcome. \$7 per person. Call 225-4917.
- **COUPLES DANCE LESSONS** at the Circle 9 Ranch, 39 Windymere Drive, Epsom, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Visit www.circle9ranch.com or call 736-9656.
- **GREEK FOLK DANCING** Sunday evenings at the St. George Greek Orthodox Community Center in Manchester. Open to everyone. Call 497-4581.
- **HULA ME KE ALOHA II** The Radisson Hotel, Nashua, Sat. and Sun., Feb. 12 & 13. Sat. will be Luau with Hula show, 4-9 p.m. Sunday will have a workshop from 10 a.m.-noon to learn an authentic Hawaiian Hula with Hyetti. No experience necessary. Sunday, 1-5 p.m. will be a Belly Dance, Hula, Performance Art Dance Show. Visit [\[cle9ranch.com\]\(http://www.cir-\) or call 736-9656.](http://www.cir-</div><div data-bbox=)

- **LINE DANCING** on Mondays at the Nashua Activity Center, beginners 4:45-5:45 p.m., improvers 7-8 p.m. Cost is \$50, runs for eight weeks.
- **LINE DANCING** on Wednesdays at Campbell High School (Highlander Way, Litchfield), 7-8 p.m., contact Campbell HS Community Program at 546-0300.
- **LINE DANCING** on Thursdays at the Windham Senior Center (2 North Lowell Road, Windham), 9:45-10:45 a.m., runs for 4 weeks. Call the Windham Rec. Dept. at 965-1208.
- **LINE DANCING** on Fridays at Nashua YMCA, 7-8 p.m., call 882-2011.
- **LINE DANCING** on Mondays and Thursdays at the Nashua Sr. Center. Absolute Beginners-Beginners and Improver classes offered. Contact CJ at nhgriz-zlies@comcast.net for info, times and fee.
- **LINE DANCING LESSONS** at the Mill-a-Round Dance Center. Beginner, easy, intermediate, available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Cost is \$8. Visit www.millaround.com for specific dates and times.

Continued on page 52

GARDENING GUY

Tomatoes

Let visions of sandwiches dance in your head



Sungold tomatoes. Henry Homeyer photo.

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

My passion for gardening is only slightly more powerful than my passion for tomatoes. Yes, I get excited about flowers, especially rare, fragrant and beautiful ones. But tomatoes are really what got me into gardening. Fat, red, juicy tomatoes are what I dream of now, in mid-January. Sandwiches with thick slices of ripe tomato. Little cherry tomatoes that pop sweetness into my mouth as I eat them straight off the vine.

In 2009 my tomatoes — along with most gardeners' tomatoes throughout New England — were devastated by late blight, which arrived just as they were ripening up. So I was very excited when I got my catalog from Johnny's Selected Seeds (www.johnnyseeds.com) this year. On the back cover is the description of a newly introduced tomato, one that is resistant to late blight. Late blight causes the fruit and vines to turn black and the fruit to melt into mush in the course of just a few days. Last summer we were lucky — there were, apparently, a few isolated instances of late blight, but there was plenty of sunshine and almost no late blight anywhere. Blights of all sorts are most common during summers that are cool and rainy.

The new tomato from Johnny's is called the Defiant PhR (F1) tomato. According to the catalog, this tomato has not only "high" resistance to late blight, but also has "intermediate" resistance to early blight. Early blight is what most of us get every year: lower leaves and stems turn brown, plants stop growing, and by summer's end the plants support the tomatoes hanging on them, but are not producing any more. In my experience, planting tomatoes in new ground (where there have never been any before) pretty much allows one to avoid early blight for a year, perhaps because it is a soil-borne disease that gets on plants by splash up.

I talked to Andrew Mefferd, a product technician at Johnny's Seeds, who told me that Defiant has very good taste and is similar to Celebrity, a well-known slicer. Apparently folks at Johnny's Seeds have been working on late blight resistance for some time, and created this hybrid from one of their varieties and a parent developed at North Carolina State University.

The Defiant is a determinate tomato. That

means a tomato generally makes one large crop and then it is finished — which is great if you're canning. Apparently Defiant spreads out its fruit a bit more — over a six-week period, perhaps. Many plum tomatoes are determinate, but most commonly grown tomatoes (Big Beef and Sungold, for example) are indeterminate, meaning that they will keep on growing and producing until frost (or blight) finishes them off. The Defiant is a 6- to 8-ounce tomato, roughly the size of a tennis ball. Andrew told me that it is a plant that can be contained nicely in a tomato cage (unlike some of the indeterminate varieties that can outgrow them in six weeks).

I was curious about how tomato hybrids are created, so I called Rob Johnston, founder and chairman of Johnny's, who was involved in the creation of the Defiant hybrid. He explained that tomatoes are self-pollinating — they have both male and female reproductive parts on the same flower. In order to make a hybrid cross, a breeder has to "emasculate" a bud — remove the male anthers with tweezers or a thumb and forefinger, then pollinate the female pistils with pollen from a different variety of tomato, creating a hybrid.

It sounds like a lot of work to produce hybrids, but Rob Johnston explained that tomatoes are highly productive: a single cross will produce a tomato that might have as many as 200 seeds with that specific genotype. That first generation of a hybrid cross, like the Defiant, is called an F1 (First Filial) hybrid. Its progeny, like the offspring of other hybrids, will differ considerably from the parent plant, so if you keep seeds from this year's hybrid tomatoes, you will get a mix of tomato types. There are no hybrid beans, Rob explained, because each time you make a hybrid cross, you only get five seeds or so, making it too labor-intensive to produce.

Heirloom tomatoes are open pollinated. That means that you just let the tomatoes use their own pollen to produce the next generation, and they are about the same every year. None of the work of hybridizing described above is involved. So normally heirloom tomatoes are less expensive than hybrids. There are modern varieties of tomatoes that are open pollinated, too, but someone had to breed them out for seven or eight generations, only keeping and re-breeding those that had the same characteristics as the parent.

Growing tomatoes and storing them for use now (I used six whole frozen tomatoes last night in a nice soup) is a real joy. I will certainly start from seed and grow more than a dozen varieties of tomatoes again this year. And I will include at least half a dozen Defiant hybrid plants as a way of hedging my bets in case of a cool, wet summer with late blight spores in the air.

I accept that growing a resistant tomato is not a guarantee. The catalog specifies "resistance," not "immunity." Given the right circumstances, any tomato, resistant or not, can get the blight. But if this new tomato is tasty and productive, I am happy to buy seeds and grow it every year along with my others. I'll hope for a sunny, warm summer, and in another two months I'll be starting my tomato seedlings. I can't wait.

Henry Homeyer is the author of three gardening books. He lives in Cornish Flat, N.H.

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CAR TALK BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

Listen to the mechanic on this one



Dear Tom and Ray:

Our 2001 Subaru Forester (93,000 miles, we're the only owner) has been an excellent, essentially maintenance-free vehicle. Recently, when a front axle was replaced for a torn CV joint boot, the garage owner recommended a pre-emptive replacement of the timing belt. He says we're entering a period of likely failure, which can be problematic when on the road (especially in remote places). He also may have been suggesting that this failure can cause attendant engine damage. I

am of the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" school, especially on car repairs that will run several hundred dollars. Predictably, my wife took the mechanic's word as gospel. What do you think? — Terry

RAY: I think if your wife always takes the mechanic's word as gospel, it's probably because you've given her plenty of reasons to do so, Terry. And you're about to give her one more.

TOM: Here's the story. There are two types of engines: interference engines and non-interference engines.

RAY: An interference engine is an engine whose pistons and valves share the same space inside the cylinders, but at different times. So when the valves are open, the piston is down and out of the way. And when the piston comes up, the valves are closed and out of the way. This is an efficient use of space, and gives the engine more power and better mileage.

TOM: But. And this is a big but — bigger than JLo's. If the timing belt breaks on an interference engine,

then the pistons and valves can collide. What does that mean? It means you need at least a new cylinder head, and perhaps a new engine. In either case, you've got a repair bill in the thousands.

RAY: And guess what, Terry? Your '01 Forester has an interference engine. Congratulations!

TOM: So if you opt for the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" approach in this case, when it IS broke, it could cost you \$25,000 for a new car instead of \$400 for a timing belt.

RAY: And statistically speaking, based on the age and mileage of your car, your timing belt is ready to break any day now.

TOM: If your car happened to have a non-interference engine (where the pistons and valves don't cross over into each other's space), a broken timing belt would not be such a disaster. Your engine simply would stop running, and would leave you stranded. Although I'm not sure that would be popular with your wife, either.

RAY: But in this case, because of the type of engine you have (and many other cars have interference engines, too), it's actually a much more urgent matter. In fact, we rec-

ommend that you not only change the timing belt now, but also change the timing-belt tensioner and the water pump, because if either of those fails, it could break the timing belt, with the same disastrous results.

TOM: So that's a lot of stuff that "ain't broke" that you're going to be fixing, Terry. But it's the wise — and the cheaper — thing to do in this case.

Dear Tom and Ray:

When I was learning to drive in the '50s, there was a rule to not drive above 40 mph on the highway for 10 minutes in order to give the bias-ply tires time to warm up so they wouldn't be overstressed. Is there a similar rule for today's radial tires? — Claude

TOM: Well, I learned to drive in the '50s, too, and I don't remember any such rule.

RAY: Not the 1850s, you dope. The 1950s! When my brother was learning to drive, wheels were wooden, and the biggest concern was getting splinters when you changed a tire!

TOM: The answer is no, Claude. There's nothing you need to do

to warm up radial tires. They can be driven at highway speed immediately.

RAY: I don't even remember any rule about warming up old, bias-ply tires. I know that if bias-ply tires sat for a long time, they could develop flat spots. And then you'd have to drive them for a while to work out the flat spot so the tire would be perfectly round again. Maybe that's why you were advised not to run them at high speed right away?

TOM: Or perhaps your father just wanted to keep you from driving fast for an extra 10 minutes, Claude.

You want to buy a used car, but how do you find a good one? Tom and Ray can help! Order "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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By Tori Loubier
tloubier@hippopress.com

In 1922, French artist Gaston Lachaise sculpted "Walking Woman." The voluptuous bronze figure appears nude, except for the hem of a long, flowing dress that swings to one side of her leg. Blending her dress with her body, her shape becomes the fashion.

"Walking Woman" is one of the many works of art that docents Sandy Townsend and Pauline Bogaert will analyze and discuss at the "Fashion in Art" tour offered at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester on Friday, Feb. 4, and Sunday, Feb. 6.

The one-hour tour takes visitors on a time machine back to 13th-century religious art representing Mary and baby Jesus, makes pit stops at Greek and

Roman depictions and Renaissance-era pieces, and ends with the contemporary wooden sculpture of "The Family" created by Marisol Escobar in 1963.

No special artworks are added to put this tour together. Instead, Townsend and Bogaert call attention to fashion and clothing in the works of art already present in the museum.

"We give an anecdotal history and look at art from a different point of view," said Townsend. "We visit various pictures of people and consider what they are wearing, why they are wearing it and how that fashion represents social values."

For Townsend, it's all about getting an idea of the social context and what the fashion represents. This includes color, decoration, creativity, shape, political statement, placement, gender

and even facial expression.

"As the French say, 'The more things change, the more they stay the same,'" Townsend said. For example, a woman attempting to attract a suitor through appearance is a timeless effort. She compares a painting of a young girl by Renaissance artist Mabuse to a modern profile picture on Facebook that a girl would choose to display herself as attractive.

The tour encourages visitors to engage in conversation about fashion in art. "Fashion has always been a political statement," Townsend said. "I remember being 20 years old in the 1960s, and everything we were wearing we were doing it for a reason. Nothing has changed today."

The tour will touch on "John Greene," a portrait done by American

artist John Copley in 1738. Copley depicts the man in a military uniform. "He's wearing a uniform, but in those pre-revolutionary days, they were all wearing uniforms. So the question becomes, what does this uniform mean as a fashion statement? Does it mean he is patriotic or an actual soldier?" Townsend said.

Similarities between Renaissance paintings of commercial art and modern advertisements make for interesting discussion as well. In fact, the mercantile aspects of Renaissance art come forth in portraits of people wearing clothes the vendor wanted to sell, much like clothing advertisements found in magazines and newspapers today.

"We don't just look at the dresses and hats [in the art]," said Townsend. "We look at what a pearl necklace



The tour will address the girl in the painting "Summer Breeze" (1904) by Edmund Tarbell to show what was thought of as the ideal American girl.

might signify about royalty, or the purpose of empire-style high-waisted draping on a Greek woman's dress."

• **RHYTHM LINE DANCING** at Royal Palace Dance Studio on Tuesdays 6:15-7 p.m. Visit royalpalacedance.com or call 621-9119.

• **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING** on Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 215 Main St., Nashua (e-mail nashuascd@comcast.net); and second and fourth Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 69 Washington St., Keene (call

Bill Schenck, 352-6968). Visit rscds-boston.org for a complete list.

• **SQUARE DANCE FAMILY FUN NIGHTS** hosted by Heel & Toe Square Dance Club at the Cerle National Club, 550 Rockland Ave., Manchester. Weekly lessons will be available for a nominal charge thru April. Couples, singles, and families are welcome. Call 497-3484 or 497-3414.

NATURE & GARDENING

• **JANUARY JAUNT FOR JAYME'S FUND** Snowshoe hike through Hollis with chili at 22 Farley House Road, Sat., Jan. 29, 9-11:30 a.m. E-mail info@jaymesfund.org

• **ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY LAWN CARE** Farm and Forest Expo, Radisson Center, Manchester, Sat., Feb. 5, 9:15 a.m. One-hour presen-

tation on how to select the best grass, identify its nutritional needs and address pest problems with an integrated management approach. Free and open to all. Call 271-3788.

• **BEE SCHOOL** South Congregational Church, 27 Pleasant St., Concord, Fridays, Feb. 18-April 15, 7-9 p.m. Learn how to keep bees in a fun and friendly environment. Bees are vital to our ecosystem. Families

welcome. \$50 per person. Contact Barbara Lawler at beelady@blawler-group.com or 774-2529

• **CELEBRATE ORCHIDS** at the Radisson Hotel, Nashua, Fri., Feb. 11, 1-5 p.m., Sat., Feb. 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sun., Feb. 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be 2,000+ orchids on display, some grown by local hobbyists and some nationally recognized professionally cultured plants. Exhibits will

also include cut flower arrangements and orchid-related artwork. Experts will be on hand to present workshops to beginners and experts. Topics will include growing plants in the home, re-potting, and more. Vendors will be selling 3,000+ plants, many suitable for windowsill growing, and other orchid-related materials. Contact Michael Mattozzi at 659-4661

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Treasure hunt

An antiques expert helps you search for buried treasure

Dear Donna,

I have a question on the age of this Nativity set. We have used it for many years during the Christmas holiday. My husband got it at a flea market years ago in Bedford, N.H. It is marked Germany on the bottom of the manger inside the clay, and also on each piece with an ink stamp. Any help would be appreciated.

Linda and Bill in Bedford

Dear Linda and Bill,

Your Nativity set appears to be from around the 1930s to me, judging by the style and its bisque finish.

The mark "Germany" tells you that it had to be made before World War II because after that Germany became East and West Germany until the 1980s. And if it were made during or after the 1980s, it would have a different style and a more modern finish. So I think it's safe to say, judging by the picture, that it's from the 1930s or before. The value of it, because it is a complete set and in good condition, would be in the \$100 range.

It's not hard to find Nativity sets because so many were made, from small ones to almost life-size. What is tough sometimes is to find them complete and without damage. A lot of them were broken or lost because of



their being seasonal and being packed and re-packed over the years.

You said in your letter you got the set at a flea market in Bedford. I remember years ago myself going to the one at the Carousel Ballroom (right where the Hannaford is now in Bedford). I bet some readers remember this as well.

I do hope this has given you the information you wanted, and I am glad you still enjoy it every year. Thanks for writing in.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (www.fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser, an instructor, a licensed auctioneer and a member of the N.H. Antiques Dealers Association. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or e-mail her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

Kiddie Pool

Family fun this weekend

A need to read

• On Saturday, Jan. 29, parents of babies and toddlers are invited to a program about **Babies and Books**, with topics including why reading to children is important, how babies learn, hints for making reading fun and how to choose books, at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Concord Public Library at 45 Green St. in Concord. Each participant will go home with a free children's book. Call 230-3682 or e-mail kgerber@concordnh.gov.

Expand your horizons

• Families can learn about Russian crafts and culture at the **Russian nested doll painting workshop** at the New England Center, 16 Hillside Drive, Rochester, on Saturday, Jan. 29, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hear the story of the Matryoshka doll and learn about her traditional Russian dress and customs, as well as traditional Russian painting techniques and floral

and berry designs. Students can work on seven-piece, five-piece, three-piece or one-piece matryoshka sets. Throughout the workshop, listen to traditional Russian music and learn traditional Russian matryoshka dance. Contact Marina Forbes 332-2255 or e-mail marina@anylanguage.org or visit MarinaForbes.com.

A festival of ice

• Take the whole family to **IceFest** at the Castleton Banquet and Conference Center at Cobbett's Pond in Windham on Saturday, Jan. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The event includes a chili cook-off, ice hockey, ice painting, ice fishing, a cross-country ski race and snow building competitions, weather permitting, plus free hot dogs and hamburgers, hot chocolate and cookies. IceFest is free and open to all.

Fitness fun

• The **Koala Bear playgroup** is a place for infants and preschoolers to hang

out on Friday mornings, 9:30-11 a.m. at Bedford Town Hall, 10 Meeting-house Road, Bedford, free of charge. Older siblings, parents and guardians are welcome to play along. Bring a snack for your child; snack time is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. (Please do not bring peanut butter products.) Contact the Bedford Parks & Recreation Department at 472-5242.

• Kids ages 6 to 11 can learn how to cross-country ski with Concord Recreation's **Ski League**, Fridays through Feb. 11. Children are required to have their own equipment. Visit www.concordnh.gov/recreation or call 225-8690.

• On Fridays and Saturdays from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Flipz Gymnastics, 134 D Hall St., Concord, holds **open gym** with trampolines, rings, balance beams, tunnels, slides, an inflatable bounce house and more. Cost is \$5 per child. Call 224-3223 or visit flipzgymnastics.com.

TECHIE

Watch your house

Keep an eye on things with a webcam



By John Andrews
jandrews@hippopress.com

I never thought growing up I'd be a dog person.

Dogs were always OK with me, but the family was unquestionably in the cat camp. As I got older, I found apartment buildings were much more amenable to feline co-habitants than canines, and I gleefully acquired a purring furball. My future mother-in-law reportedly told her daughter during the early days of our courtship, "Oh, he has a cat? He's perfect for you!" Even the Internet approved, flooding the Web with pictures of cats in wacky poses and spouting nearly English witticisms in a pidgin grammar for my amusement.

But it couldn't go on forever. Dogs are, after all, man's best friend. It's a saying, so it must be true. Now there's a dog in my house, and he's awesome, so I talk about him with coworkers, friends and my exasperated parents, who wonder what they did wrong in my childhood.

What's really odd is that people with dogs now talk to *me*. It might never have occurred to them before, but now that I'm in the club, I get to hear dog stories. Including stories of brand new dogs — they're called "puppies," did you know that? — and the adventures of raising them.

Very young puppies, for example, need to be taken outside regularly and judiciously watched. Unlike the kitten, who is capable of using a box full of sand to take care of its business from a very young age, the puppy must relieve itself outside, and if not given ample opportunities to do so will pick random spots in your house until properly trained.

With this in mind, a friend asked me about using a webcam to keep an eye on his young pug while he's at work. He found one ser-

vice, GoToCamera.com, that lets him view snapshots throughout the day for free, but full-motion video costs extra after the first week. Are there alternatives?

As usual, the answer is: absolutely!

Assuming your webcam is attached to a computer that's always on, the simplest way to view what's in front of it is to start a video chat. Many instant messaging programs can automatically accept a chat request, but you have to set it up that way.

In Skype, for instance, under Tools -> Options -> Calls -> Show Advanced Options, you need to select "Answer incoming calls automatically" and "Start my video automatically when I am in a call." Then, using another account at your other location, just click the Call button. Each account should be on the other's contact list, and the one at the webcam probably shouldn't be used for anything else.

If you'd like to make your webcam available to the world at large, there are plenty of websites that are happy to oblige. There's CamStreams.com, with at least some controls on users so that you're not sharing virtual porch space with, um, illicit content. Meanwhile, judging from the thumbnails at WW.com, they might at least look the other way if you start broadcasting risqué material.

For more privacy and electricity savings, consider an IP camera. Rather than leave your computer on all day, hook one of these up to your home network and have it automatically upload snapshots or stream its video. Most come with software to access it even if your Internet service provider doesn't give you the same IP all the time (most don't). The Linksys WVC80N or Foscam FI8908W can get you started for around \$100.

Or you can quit your job to stay at home with your dog all the time.

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- **J BEANER'S COFFEE HOUSE AND CAFÉ** 25 Route 101A, Amherst. Free.
- **MARTHA'S EXCHANGE** 185 Main St., 883-8781. Free.
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Hippo

BEST OF 2011

Time to tell us about your favorite stuff! It's...
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VOTE in our readers' poll during the month of February. We'll tally the votes and announce in March who you've decided is the best at what they do.

These awards are all about YOUR favorites. What do you love about living in southern New Hampshire? Who makes living here special for you?

Vote online starting at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 1. The ballot will be available by clicking on the "Best of 2011" link at www.hippopress.com. Online ballots must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28. Fill out at least 15 categories to have your vote counted.

No national chains please—this is about the people and the places that make southern New Hampshire unique.

Help make your favorite restaurant, hair stylist or community event award-winning! Vote in the one and only Hippo's Best of 2011 Readers' Poll!



Ballots will not be printed in the Hippo. A very limited number of printed ballots will be available from the Hippo by mailing your first and last name and your full address to "Best of 2011 Ballot Request, The Hippo, 49 Hollis St., Manchester, NH. 03101." A request for ballot must contain full first and last name and only one ballot will be mailed to each address. Ballots must be returned with full first and last name and ballots on the outside envelope. Only one ballot per address will be counted. Ballot requests after Feb. 18 will not be answered. Ballots must be in the Hippo offices by Feb. 28. Doesn't that sound horribly complicated? Just fire up your trusty computer and vote online – it's quicker, easier and fun! Sending out an e-mail or tweet or other social networky thing to get all your buddies to vote for your band or favorite dentist is A-OK (just make sure everybody votes on their own computer as only one vote per computer is counted). Votes are tallied by Hippo and all results are final.

Great fare, great cause

Taste for a Cure for CF features food, drink, fun

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Sometimes there are not enough hours in the day for 12-year-old Rosie Garvey.

The Amherst Middle School seventh-grader is an avid participant in field hockey, theater and dance — all activities that might normally be daunting for someone, like Rosie, with Cystic Fibrosis. “We’re in a good place but it could be better,” said Rosie’s mom, Paula Garvey. “We are very thankful for Rosie being as healthy as she is.”

The Garveys, of Amherst, learned of Rosie’s diagnosis in their home country of Ireland two days after she was born. “We were very fortunate to move to [the United States] when Rosie was three,” Garvey said. “All states in the U.S. now test newborns for Cystic Fibrosis and that is absolutely huge ... we were very fortunate with Rosie as she was diagnosed early and was able to get treatment early.”

With the average life expectancy of Cystic Fibrosis patients not reaching 40, Garvey and a neighbor have taken it upon themselves to make a cure happen for Rosie and the other estimated 30,000 people affected by the respiratory disease. She has raised more than \$400,000 in four years for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation with “Taste for a Cure for Cystic Fibrosis,” an event featuring fare from local restaurants, beer, wine, auctions and fun. This year’s event will be held at the Southeastern Regional Education Service Center (SERESC) in Bedford, on Thursday, Feb. 3, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Garvey hopes to raise \$115,000 at the 2011 event, which has sold out every year.

“We’re just planning on getting a cure in the next few years — then we can focus on finding a cure for something else,” Garvey said. “These therapies cost money, we need to keep raising money.”

Garvey got the idea for the event from a Cystic Fibrosis conference in Bethesda, Md.,

when another attendant spoke of having run a similar, and successful, event for the cause.

“I said ‘Yes, let’s do it,’” Garvey said. She then took to the phones, and while many people said no, a lot said yes. The food, wine, beer, auction items and even the venue have been donated for the event.

“A lot of places totally invest in Cystic Fibrosis, which is incredible because there are a lot of worthy causes out there,” Garvey said.

One food vendor that has participated in the event since the beginning is Fredrick’s Pastries in Amherst.

“We always want to support the community around us in any way we can, especially for children.... It’s a great event and just something we need to put our effort into helping out with,” said Jen Wojtaszek, Fredrick’s Pastries general manager, adding that the bakery will serve its classic tortes and pastries at the event, including its new purple velvet torte.

In addition to Fredrick’s, the following local eateries are participating in this year’s event: A&E Custom Coffee Roastery, Buckley’s Great Steaks, Damian’s on the River, Eden Restaurant & Lounge, Firefly American Bistro & Bar, The Homestead Restaurant, Orchard Street Chop Shop, The Peddler’s Daughter, Piccola Italia Ristorante, Stella Blu and Wentworth by the Sea.

“We need a cure so Rosie can have the same dreams and expectations of her two sisters,” Garvey said. “Her big dream at the moment — of course it changes every day — is to go to Australia. She says ‘Mommy, I want to go but I don’t want to bring all of my medications.’”

On vacations to Ireland to visit family, a nebulizer and breathing vest are two of the first items to be packed for the trip. She is put on antibiotics when she shows the slightest sign of a cold and in her adult years could need a lung transplant.

Money raised at the event goes indirectly through the clinic visited by Rosie — Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth clinic in



Rosie Garvey poses with employees of the Southeastern Regional Education Service Center in Bedford at last year’s Taste for a Cure for Cystic Fibrosis event. Courtesy photo.

Manchester — as it is accredited by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

“[The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation] is very selective where they spend their money. There is very little waste and they do a lot of good research,” Garvey said.

Stacey Smith, senior director of development at Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Northern New England, said she is grateful for Garvey’s efforts because the event raises not only funds but also awareness. She added that 90 percent of every dollar raised for the foundation is put toward research and she is very hopeful that a cure will be found in her lifetime.

Garvey, too, shared how hopeful she is that her daughter will one day be free of her nebulizer and breathing vest.

“It is a horrible disorder to deal with but what a hopeful time it is — the fact that there is good research going on,” Garvey said. “It is not all gloom and doom but it is a hard disorder for Rosie to deal with every day.”

Taste for a Cure

When: Thursday, Feb. 3, from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Where: Southeastern Regional Education Service Center, 29 Commerce Drive, Bedford, 206-6800

Tickets: \$50 at <http://newengland.cff.org/taste>

Info: www.rosiesroses.yolasite.com



Judi and John Heer, owners of German John’s Bakery in Hillsborough, will offer lunch at the eatery Wednesday through Saturday until May. Angel Roy photo.

zels — which John missed the most — at local farmers markets and opened their Main Street shop in 1996. Fourteen years and a move across the road later, Heer said three-fourths of the shop’s customers are not local and two-thirds are German. Many shoppers, Heer has

and served in a sandwich-friendly roll.

Not all rolls at German John’s are suitable for sandwich making, Heer said.

Sandwiches in Germany, she said, are eaten open-faced with meat on one half and cheese on the other. Condiments are spread on the meat, not the bread, she said. At German John’s, customers may purchase bread and an unsliced cut of meat, for which the Heers provide the plates, knives, cutting board and mustard.

“It allows people to get a taste of this kind of culture in doing that,” Heer said, adding that in Germany such a spread would be considered dinner because Germans typically eat their warm meal for lunch.

The Heers began making German food shortly after moving back to New Hampshire in 1993 because John, a native of Germany, missed it. The couple had lived in Europe for 22 years before returning to the United States. The pair began selling authentic German pret-

Weekly Dish

Notes from the local food scene

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

• **Auf wiedersehen:** The Inn at Danbury and Alphorn Bistro, 768-3318, has announced on its website that it is closed for business. Former owners Robert and Alex Graf will continue with their German catering business Schnitzels & Giggles; visit schnitzelsandgiggles.com.

• **The cheesiest of them all:** The New Hampshire Young Farmers were named “Grand Champion of the Day” for their “Beefy Macaroni and Cheese” at the New Hampshire Dairy Promo macaroni and cheese cookoff on Jan. 15. The young farmers also placed first in the Best Traditional category. The dessert mac and cheese made by Mike and Barbara Morin, of Hooksett, was named “Most Exotic.” “The Brooklyn Bomb” — double stuffed potato with macaroni and cheese — made by Nonni’s Italian Eatery in Concord won the People’s Choice award, and Neelima Gogumalla, of Windham, took first place in the New Hampshire-made category with her creamy crab with Swiss and goat cheese mac. Gogumalla’s recipe will soon be featured on the menu at Cotton in Manchester.

• **A new way to start your day:** Republic, 1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723, www.republic-cafe.com, will offer its new array of Fair Trade coffees to go — light organic roast, robust house and the flavor of the day — for 50 cents from Thursday, Jan. 27, to Friday, Feb. 4. The café will also be serving new breakfast pastries, including bagels and scones, as well as sweet treats. Also from Jan. 27 to Feb. 4, a different farmer will be featured at dinner each night.

• **Dreaming of early peas and crispy greens:** Snow’s still on the ground, but the CSAs (community-supported agriculture, which sell shares of upcoming harvests) are already looking for members. Local Harvest CSA runs from May through November and will offer three season plans this year: a three-week spring membership, an 18-week summer membership and a five-week fall membership, according to a press release. Call 731-5955 for details.

• **Beer and bikes:** Milly’s Tavern, 500 North Commercial St., Manchester, 625-4444, www.millystavern.com, will host representatives from Cycle the Seacoast on Thursday, Jan. 27, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Cycle the Seacoast is a one-day ride in Portsmouth to benefit the American Lung Association. To RSVP, contact Martha at mandrews@lungne.org or 888-241-6566 ext. 9001.

• **Ice bar:** As the Wine Week celebrations continue, so does the Ice Bar at the Bedford Village Inn, Two Olde Bedford Way in Bedford, www.bedfordvillageinn.com, 296-3918. The outdoor circular ice bar on the Inn’s Patio will feature a martini luge and nightly events and will be open through Saturday, Jan. 29.

• **Concord’s coolest, on ice:** The Barley House, 132 North Main St., Concord, 228-6363, www.thebarleyhouse.com, will host a frigid ice chair sit to support Special Olympics on Friday, Jan. 28, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Many city officials, including Mayor Jim Bouley and Concord Fire Chief Dan Andrus, are scheduled to participate in the event, which will involve them sitting on an ice chair, fully dressed. As crowd donations increase, clothing will be

Continued on page 45

Genuine German in Hillsborough

Heers have real rye bread, and pretzels you can make a sandwich on

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Two days before reopening after a two-week vacation, Judi Heer walked into the Hillsborough eatery she owns with her husband, a bag of red potatoes in hand that would soon be made into a traditional German soup.

And when Heer mentions making soup, it is a sign of the start of lunch season at German John’s Bakery. From January to May — which Heer called the off season — the restaurant will serve lunch Wednesday through Saturday. Bratwursts, each cooked for 20 minutes, are served with a German hard roll and sauerkraut cooked with apples and spices, for lunch every Wednesday, and Thursday through Saturday traditional homemade German soups, including potato, lentil and pea, will be served at the eatery. Also on Saturdays, the shop will offer a sandwich special, including Fleischkäse, a bologna-type meat baked in a bread loaf, sliced

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FOOD

found, are from other New England states, visiting once or twice monthly to fill their freezers with breads, pretzels and hard rolls.

In Germany, Heer said, unsalted butter is used to enhance the flavor of pretzels, whereas in America many people choose to use mustard, which masks the taste. In addition to individual-size pretzels, the shop now makes one- or two-pound pretzels to order. A two-pound pretzel can be used as a roll for an estimated 10 sandwiches, Heer said.

The pair specializes in their artisan breads, which Heer called hard-crust and dense. Heer said there is a standing bias against rye and sourdough bread, both of which the shop sells. In December the shop hosts a tasting day for sourdough and rye skeptics.

Rye bread in America, she noted, is filled with caraway seeds, which give a very different flavor from the rye flour used in traditional rye bread. Caraway seeds are only added to the shop's corn rye and dark rye breads, for customers favoring the flavor.

Traditional German sourdough bread is not nearly as sour as American sourdough, Heer added.

"We get people [in the shop] that hate rye and hate sourdough but like our bread," she said.

Cooking began as a hobby for Heer, who worked as a biologist while living in Europe.

"Soups were my thing but baking I wasn't all that into," Heer said. "Now, I [bake] out of necessity; we split it."

The pair developed their baking skills through discussions with and assistance from baker friends and lots of books. And while most of their recipes are hand-me-downs from John Heer's friends and family, Heer said her husband frequently invents different varieties of bread such as carrot and herb, apricot pistachio and blue cheese and kalamata olive.

"American ingredients are not the same," Heer said. "It took a while to get the flour mixture right so the bread would come out authentic, and we know what it's supposed to taste like, which is very important."

"You can give five people the same recipe and get five different products," she noted.

Hanging behind the shop's counter and bakery cases is "die wurst liste" — a list of imported German sausages sold at the eatery including Wiesswurst (Bavarian white sausage), Nürnberger (very small bratwursts) and seven types of liverwurst, which Heer said is typically used as a spread in Germany. The shop also sells imported cheeses, honey, coffee, jams, chocolates and sauerkraut.

After the off season, the Heers find themselves kicking into high gear as in mid-June they quickly become busy with farmers markets and before they know it is time for the Hillsboro Schnitzelfest held annually on the last Saturday of September. Then comes an outpouring of Oktoberfest celebrations — Heer said the shop is "nuts" for the entire month of October — and the couple sees a very short period of down time at the eatery before starting up their Christmas baking.

"We don't get a lot of rest," Heer said.

German John's Bakery

5 W. Main St., Hillsborough, 464-5079,
www.germanjohnsbakery.net

Hours: January through May – Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. June through December – Tuesday, 11 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. From July to October, the shop is also open Sundays, 11 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Bakery buds build business

A Slice of Heaven expands from sweet to savory

By Angel Roy
aroy@hippopress.com

Monica Apgar and Sherri Ferns met 12 years ago at a place you might think unlikely to spark the idea of opening a bakery — Planet Fitness.

Apgar, a stay-at-home mom, and Ferns, then the daycare manager at the gym, formed a friendship when Apgar began bringing her children to the facility. When the ladies would meet for dinner once a week, Ferns would host and Apgar would bring the meal.

"I told her she needed to be putting her cooking out there," Ferns said.

And while Apgar brushed off the idea, when she began looking to do something to supplement some income the pieces all seemed to fall into place. The sister of one of her friends had a stand at a local farmers market and peddled a variety of baked goods — but not pies.

"That was the beginning," Apgar said.

A Slice of Heaven Bakery recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. Ferns officially came on board one year ago as Apgar's business partner.

"I feel like it has been mine since the beginning; now I get a paycheck for it," Ferns said.

As the bakery doubled its Thanksgiving pie orders (they baked 520 pies!) and now sells its products in 10 stores, the pair is looking to expand to the south, east and later to the



An apple pie baked by the ladies of A Slice of Heaven Bakery in Epsom. Angel Roy photo.

Lakes Region.

"The south seemed like the next thing to do and the east is the next closest to us," Ferns said. "There are lot of place there that focus on New Hampshire-made products."

"I roll all the dough and make it all myself and where there are people that appreciate that is where we want to go," Apgar said.

They've taken their first step to growing the business by moving the commercial bakery from a rented storefront on Goboro Road in Epsom to Apgar's home nearby. The new kitchen is being constructed by their supportive husbands, Matt and John, in Apgar's garage, and with planning board approval the ladies and their staff will have the ability to bake 48 pies at a time — at the former space

FOOD

they could only bake 24. “We can really speed up our pies,” Apgar said.

“And bake faster,” Ferns added.

“I’m really excited for it,” Apgar said. “Now we can [start] thinking about what the best setup will be because we have this blank slate. We can figure out exactly what we need.”

January and February are the slowest months at A Slice of Heaven and the ladies declined to participate in any winter farmers markets this season as not to take business away from people they have worked with in the past.

“We are going to rock it out come March,” Apgar said.

The bakery finds itself busiest in the summertime, as after the corn season sales double because when people visit local farms and farm stands to buy a few ears they always seem to grab a pie, Ferns said.

In the summer, baking is done a minimum of two days a week and both Ferns, of Concord, and Apgar, of Epsom, find themselves having to force each other to take a day off. On the rare days they are not in the kitchen, the ladies talk up to 20 times a day.

“We counted once,” Ferns said. “If I don’t call once something is in my head, it’s gone,” Apgar said.

One thing that never slips Apgar’s mind, however, is her recipes.

When asked if there was one sacred cookbook they refer to, Apgar pointed to her head.

“It drives everyone crazy,” she said.

“It scares me to death,” Ferns added.

Ferns said she is better out of the kitchen than in. “I get in and start asking questions

and [Apgar] is like ‘Don’t talk right now, just count and measure,’” she said.

New bakery products introduced this year were raspberry bars, raspberry white chocolate bars, brownies, pumpkin and chocolate whoopie pies and cinnamon rolls.

“When I first had her cinnamon rolls I was like ‘Are you kidding me? Why aren’t we selling these?’” Ferns said. “They’re perfect. Just 15 seconds in the microwave and life is good.”

Apgar admitted that if not for Ferns, she would have stuck with only baking pies.

“I really believe the crust sells the pie,” Apgar said, keeping mum on the secret to a good crust.

“It’s the love I put into it,” she said.

Apgar said she also fought tooth and nail against making and selling her chicken pot pies.

Savory food serves as the newest venture for the bakery as Ferns and Apgar now offer catering of what Ferns called “good old-fashioned comfort food,” all made from scratch.

“We have chicken broccoli alfredo, pasta, lasagna — I’m hungry, I think,” Ferns said, adding that they are considering selling their dishes and soups at stores.

For weddings, Ferns will sit down with brides to customize a menu and pick their brains for what they like.

“She is so, so good at that,” Apgar said.

A Slice of Heaven Bakery

568-4677, www.sliceofheavencateringnh.com

Food Listings

Farmers markets

• **SALEM WINTER MARKET** at United Methodist Church, 8 Pleasant St., Salem, runs Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will run two Saturdays a month through March: Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 19, March 5 and March 19. See www.salemnhfarmersmarket.com.

Festivals/cook-offs/expos/parties/book events

• **WINTER WINE SPECTACULAR** to benefit Easter Seals NH888-368-8880 or visit www.eastersealsnh.org/events to buy tickets to the Winter Wine Spectacular on Thurs., Jan. 27, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Radisson in Manchester. Tickets cost \$60 for the grand tasting, \$100 for the cellar select room and \$125 for access to both.

• **CHILI COOK-OFF** Look for a chili cook-off at the Castleton Banquet and Conference Center at Cobbett’s Pond in Windham as part of the second annual IceFest, hosted by the New Hampshire Lakes Association, on Saturday, Jan. 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chili experts can compete to win \$100 in gift cards (the first place prize) and \$50 in gift cards (second place); all participants in the cookoff get a free mug. See the rules and register at www.nhlakes.org. The event, held in cooperation with the Cobbett’s Pond Improvement Association, will include ice hockey, ice painting, ice fishing, a cross country ski race and a snow-building competition. The day will also include hot dogs, hamburgers, hot chocolate and cookies. Admission is free, as are

In the spotlight



Ideas in Food: Great Recipes and Why They Work, by Aki Kamoza and H. Alexander Talbot (2010, Clarkson Potter, 320 pages)

What is meringue, exactly, and why does it work, that is to say, why does it stay poofed up? Meringue is an egg foam, *Ideas in Food* explains, and it gets its foaminess from air bubbles covered with elastic protein. The smaller the bubbles, the more stable the foam. Add some sugar and you can work with the egg white longer and add some acid (cream of tartar or lemon juice) and you can get an even bigger foam.

This may not sound like the mustard sorbets and frozen bacon pieces that you think of when you think of molecular gastronomy but this lesson on eggs and what they do is part of an overall discussion of the chemistry of food that makes up *Ideas in Food*.

Kamoza and Talbot discuss what turns milk to cheese, what salt does, how to pickle things, different ways of cooking meat and other ideas that are key to the foods we make but maybe not often examined. Learn exactly how yeast works and how bread rises, and you can improve not only your baguettes but also your sticky buns and your flatbreads. Each section starts by explaining a concept and then demonstrating what the idea does through a variety of recipes.

The final quarter of the book gets to the real razzmatazz stuff — the Agar-agar, methycellulose and xanthan gum used by professionals to create new flavors and textures. You likely won’t be making bacon consommé or popcorn gelato in your own kitchen, but for fans of *Top Chef*, it’s fun to learn exactly what all that liquid nitrogen can do. — Amy Diaz

some snacks, though bring money for the chili tasting.

• **SOUP BENEFIT** Community Caregivers of Greater Derry, 58 E Broadway in Derry, 432-0877, will hold their sixth annual Potter’s Bowl fundraiser on Fri., Feb. 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. For \$30, get a handcrafted

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Inspired Italian

This personal chef says less is more

By Angel Roy
a.roy@hippopress.com

If you do not like garlic or extra virgin olive oil, Kimberly Severino says her cooking is not for you.

"Most get excited about a glass of wine; I get excited about Filippo Berio," Severino said in a kitchen tucked underneath Rig A' Tony's on West Broadway in Derry, hugging a large square can of the first-cold-pressed olive oil.

Severino, of Derry, launched Kimberly's Kitchen, her catering and personal chef business, in November. She first introduced her products at the Derry Winter Farmers Market, where she continues to offer hot meals and take-home dinners weekly.

A self-taught cook from an Italian family, Severino said cooking and eating had always been a huge part of her life, with "every family gathering centered around it." She continued to cultivate her passion for food at age 13, when she worked at a sub shop. She later became a waitress, then a banquet server at a Holiday Inn, where she was eventually promoted to sales director and gained management experience.

"This was a no-brainer," Severino said of her catering business. "I had the opportunity to be so well-rounded, learn so much and gain so much experience without going to hospitality school ... I have done everything from the line level to management. When you put it all together I am theoretically the perfect hospitality business owner."

Severino said she brings something different to Italian cooking: the philosophy that less is more. "My grandmother used more spices [in her sauce] than I could count on two hands — I thought hers was the best sauce in the world when I was young," Severino said. "I now realize what gets lost is the taste of the tomatoes."

Severino has since developed a marinara sauce — which she hopes to sell one day in stores — that boasts only four ingredients. On a recent morning, while chopping garlic for her sauce, Severino said she would not be able to continue with preparation until her fresh basil was delivered.

Fresh products are essential to Severino's cooking and baking. She steers away from unnatural additives such as imitation vanilla.

"Pure vanilla costs twice as much as imitation, but imitation has the same ingredients as antifreeze — how can you put that in food?" Severino said. "If I never make a profit at this because I don't cut those kinds of corners, I will be OK with that."

Severino said she will likely never profit from her cookies either, as after much trial and error she has perfected her recipe with Ghirardelli chocolate. She is working on a natural muffin recipe.

"I'm stubborn about it," Severino said of her muffin-making. "I can't find a mix without too many words I can't pronounce or imitation vanilla."

Severino chose to add personal chef services to her business because she enjoys helping people — "And people on special diets do need help," she said. Severino has been able



Kim Severino, of Derry, opened Kimberly's Kitchen, a catering and personal chef service, in November. Angel Roy photo.

to develop menus for a client with celiac disease and another who follows a paleo/primal diet, a hunter-gatherer-type diet that excludes all wheat and grain including legumes, rice, flour, pasta and brown rice. Severino said such a diet allows for someone to consume more fat than "carbohydrate addicts" can because it does not include grains. On the menu for her client, Severino listed a lemon and raspberry chicken encrusted with fresh Parmesan and rosemary served over a bed of baby spinach, caramelized onions, chopped tomatoes and fresh garlic and a sweet potato beef stew.

"I made her a menu in five minutes and told her it was just a start," Severino said. "She told me I was her hero."

She was able to meet the needs of her patient suffering from celiac disease because she has had a lot of experience with gluten-free cooking.

Each meal comes with a list of ingredients, which Severino said is especially important for people with allergies because if she misses something the customer will know before they consume it.

"When you use all-natural, simple ingredients it is easy to publish ingredients — it is easy not to hide," she said.

She has also developed revolving menus of 20 to 25 seasonal items that include meals for every kind of diet and said that 80 percent of her customers stay within that group of recipes.

"My goal in this is that I want to have ongoing clients for months and years," Severino said, adding that her personal chef meals can be prepared in family-sized portions.

One big thing Severino is looking to as part of her new endeavor is catering weddings. As a catering manager, she had catered hundreds but now she will tackle them from the kitchen, with a staff of per diem employees standing by.

"They are kind of like magic," she said of the staff that she had previously worked with at other venues. "The way they work together is like a ballet — they're my dream team."

Kimberly's Kitchen

www.kimberlycaters.com, 845-5184

FOOD

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 41

removed (decency will be maintained).

• **Beer brewing demonstration:** White Birch Brewery, 1386 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 524-5004, www.whitebirchbrewing.com, will show how to make a pilot batch of smoked imperial stout ale and teach homebrewing techniques on Friday, Jan. 28, from 4 to 8 p.m. Guests will be able to take home five-gallon versions of the recipes. The event will also feature food and beer samples, and Drew Estates and Smoke N Barley will offer cigars. The demonstration costs \$40.

• **Wine, seafood and barbecue:** Lobster Q, 416 Emerson Ave., Hampstead, 329-4094, www.lobsterq.com, will host a three-course surf and turf wine dinner on Sunday, Jan. 30, at 5:30 p.m. for \$39.95 per person. The event will feature wines from Zorvino Vineyards in Sandown. The menu will feature mud hen chowder, ribs and scallops and apple crisp. Reservations are required.

• **Mayor for the day:** The Red Arrow Diner, 61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118, and 63 Union Square, Milford, 249-9222, will award a \$50 gift certificate to whoever is Mayor of each restaurant on Foursquare, at 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 31. To learn more or sign up, visit www.foursquare.com.

• **Soup and bowl:** The West Manchester Community Library, 76 N. Main St., 624-6560, will hold a Souper Bowl Saturday event on Saturday, Feb. 5, from noon to 2 p.m. The event will include soup, football books and football videos.

• **Valentine-themed tastings:** Butter's Fine Food and Wine, 70 North Main St., Concord, 225-5995, www.buttersfinefood.com, will host a tasting of Valentine wines and chocolates on Thursday, Feb. 10, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Pianist Jayne Kelley will perform.

• **Chocolate Madness and meet the authors:** Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, www.zorvinovineyards.com, will host its Chocolate Madness wine dinner on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m., with a cocktail hour held at 6:30 p.m. The event will feature three appetizers made with chocolate paired with six Zorvino wines. The dinner is \$32 per person. Reservations are required. The winery will also host an author's night on Friday, Feb. 11, from 6 to 9 p.m. Up to 50 local authors are scheduled to sign and sell their books at the free event.

• **Wine and romance:** Vintner's Cellar of Bedford, 410 S. River Road in Bedford, 627-9463, vintnerscellarnh.com, will celebrate Valentine's Day with wine pairing events. On Friday, Feb. 11, and Saturday, Feb. 12, there will be chocolate and wine pairing sessions. Pair five chocolates with five wines at sessions from 6 to 7:30 p.m. or 8 to 9:30 p.m. The event costs \$25 per person. On Sunday, Feb. 13, it's a Valentine's Day Wine & Dine Brunch starting at noon. The cost is \$55 per person. See the menu at

www.vintnerscellarnh.com/Valentines.htm.

• **Pancakes for a cause:** The Muchachos Drum & Bugle Corps will hold a fundraising pancake breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, 581 Second St. in Manchester. Proceeds will benefit the Muchachos music education program. Tickets will cost \$5 at the door and include pancakes, sausage and beverage. See www.muchachos.org.

• **Fresh fish:** Learn to cook seafood at "Catch of the Day: Seafood and Eat Food with Oonagh," a class on Tuesday, Feb. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St. in Amherst, 673-2288, www.amherst.lib.nh.us. Chef Oonagh Williams will demonstrate how to make Shrimp and Crab Bisque, Asian Spring Rolls and Chocolate Peanut Butter Marble Bars, according to a press release. Samples will be provided. Register by calling, going online or e-mailing library@amherst.lib.nh.us.

• **Beer-inspired writings:** Smuttynose Brewing Company, 225 Heritage Ave., Portsmouth, 436-4026, www.smuttynose.com, is asking for submissions of short-form poetry (limit 20 lines), essays (500-2,500 words) and short fiction (500-2,500 words) about or inspired by beer or Russian Imperial history. The winner of each category will be chosen blindly by an independent panel of judges. Winners will receive a bottle of Smuttynose's Kate the Great and have their entries posted on the brewery's website. Entries may be submitted to jt@smuttynose.com until 12:01 a.m. on Feb. 19. Please include your full name and address. Participants must be at least 21 to enter. Winners will be notified via e-mail.

• **Healthy eats:** The Concord Cooperative Market, 24 S. Main St. in Concord, 225-6840, www.concordfoodcoop.coop, has several healthy living classes on the schedule. On Thursday, March 10, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. it's "A Natural Approach to Adrenal Fatigue in Women" with a naturopathic doctor discussing how diet, exercise and vitamin and mineral supplements can help adrenal function. On Thursday, March 17, from 6 to 7 p.m. it's a class on no-knead bread. On Thursday, March 24, from 6 to 7 p.m., it's "From Bulk Bin to Table: Transforming Whole Grains into Delicious Meals." All classes are free; call or e-mail classes@concordfoodcoop.coop to sign up.

• **Gala for a cause:** Nashua Pastoral Care Center will hold its annual fundraising Gourmet Festival & Auction on Sunday, March 20, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Nashua Country Club, 25 Fairway St. in Nashua. Local restaurants, caterers and other purveyors of eats and drinks will offer tastes, and a silent auction will feature a variety of gift baskets, sports tickets, gift certificates and more. A live auction will feature trips and other big prizes. Tickets cost \$85 before Feb. 21, \$100 after. Call 886-2866 or e-mail mwebb@nashuanpcc.org.

bowl by a local artist and then sample soups from local restaurants as well as breads, desserts and other eats. The evening will include entertainment and a silent auction. The event will be held at Promises to Keep on Route 28 in Derry. Purchases them by calling

the Caregivers at 432-0877 or at the Derry Masonic Temple, 58 E. Broadway. See www.comcaregivers.org.

• **ICE CREAM FOR BREAKFAST** Head to Jake's Old Fashioned Ice Cream & Sweet Shoppe, 135 Route 101A in Amherst, on Sat., Feb.

5, from 7:30 a.m. until noon for "Ice Cream for Breakfast Day." Purchase one scoop (\$3) or two scoops (\$4) and proceeds will go to the Animal Rescue League of NH (www.rescueleague.org). Wear pajamas and receive a free cookie.



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DRINK

President oenophile

Thomas Jefferson was wine-lover-in-chief

By Paulette Eschrich
food@hippopress.com

Last year, my Wine Book Club read *The Billionaire's Vinegar: The Mystery of the World's Most Expensive Bottle of Wine* by Benjamin Wallace. The true story chronicles the auction of very old, rare wines purported to have been purchased by Thomas Jefferson for his personal cellar. This book presented me with a conundrum. All of the wines that played a prominent role in the story were very expensive; one bottle of any wine would deplete if not exceed my budget for wines for the Wine Book Club meeting.

Thankfully, a well-read friend came to the rescue. He said that the contents of Jefferson's cellar were documented in several very good books. I was able to broaden the context of my search for wines to serve, and expanded my wine library with books about Thomas Jefferson. Intrigued by the snippets about Jefferson in *The Billionaire's Vinegar* and the wines we sampled, my Book Club participants requested that I feature a book about Thomas Jefferson at a future meeting.

Passions: The Wines and Travels of Thomas Jefferson by James M. Gabler was our choice for January's meeting. A bit more scholarly than most of our selections, it describes Jefferson's visits to wineries and vineyards with the author's updated observations about the same locations in France, Italy and Germany. One participant, a high school teacher, pointed out the author's obvious mistakes in presenting historic events and relationships (which she used as a teaching opportunity with her students).

Jefferson's account books reveal that he purchased more than 20,000 bottles of wine from Europe during his eight years as president. Considering that the costs of entertaining were borne by the President and not paid for with government funds, the magnitude of the expense is staggering. In addition to procuring wines for himself, Jefferson recommended wines to President Washington and other notable Americans.

Jefferson had a discriminating palate. In his travels, long before Wine Spectator and Robert Parker were on the scene to provide ratings and recommendations, Jefferson never failed to identify the best vineyards and wineries. What I found most interesting is that although most of wineries exist today, the style of wines they produce may be dramatically different from the ones Jefferson enjoyed.

Two cases in point are Champagne and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. On his visit to Champagne and in correspondence to place orders for wine, Jefferson was adamant that he did not want bubbles in his Champagne. In addition, it wasn't until 1874 that Madame Pommery made the first commercially viable dry or "brut" Champagne. The Champagne that Jefferson liberally poured at the White House would have been a still, sweet wine.

Another Jefferson favorite was the red wine from the town of Montepulciano in southern Tuscany. Today this dry red wine is composed of at least 70 percent Sangiovese known locally as Prugnolo Gentile. In the 18th century

the red wines of Montepulciano were made from Aleatico, a relatively rare grape that is linked to sweet Muscat. The closest contemporary wine would be an Aleatico dessert wine like **Falesco's Pomele from Lazio** (NH Code 44872, \$24.99 NHLS.)

In 1962 at a White House dinner, President Kennedy told a group of Nobel Prize winners that "this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever gathered together in the White House — with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone." Thomas Jefferson rarely dined alone. He was the consummate host and was always generous with the contents of his wine cellar.

For those who would like to sample wines that are from wineries or vineyards that Jefferson favored, here are a few recommendations that are available in New Hampshire.

2007 Johannishof Rudensheimer Berg Rottland Riesling Spatlese, Germany (NH Code 38490) \$43.99 With his preference for sweet wines, it's no surprise that Jefferson was fond of Rieslings. In 1788 on a trip to Germany, Jefferson noted that the best vineyards faced south along terraced hillsides. Today those vineyards have "Berg" on the label to differentiate them from the less prestigious vineyards. This elegant white has an undertone of classic minerality, whiffs of petrol, with overriding distinct floral aromas accompanied by stone fruit. The sweetness dances on your tongue, it isn't ponderous or cloying, and it balances perfectly with the mouthwatering acidity. Delightful with creamy blue cheese, it would work well with lightly sautéed chicken or baked ham. Available at WineNot Boutique and a couple New Hampshire State Liquor Outlets.

2007 Chateau Rauzan-Segla Margaux, Bordeaux, France (NH Code 14397) \$72.99 on sale in January, regularly \$88.99 Long before the 1855 Official Bordeaux Classification, Jefferson's unerring palate identified his four favorite Bordeaux wineries: Chateau Margaux, Chateau Latour, Chateau Haut-Brion and Chateau Lafite-Rothschild. He regularly ordered wines from these top tier, or First Growth, wineries. Chateau Rauzan-Segla, which was classified as the next tier, or Second Growth, was another of his favorite go-to wineries. He often wrote directly to Madame Rohan, the proprietor, to place his orders.

Chateau Rauzan-Segla went through a period of benign neglect in the mid-20th century, with a resulting decline in quality. In 1994, the brothers who own the Chanel empire purchased the estate and enticed the head winemaker from Chateau Latour to direct the resurrection. The winery, vineyard and historic chateau have been updated and restored and the quality of the wine has reclaimed its exalted status as a Second Growth.

The 2007 vintage is made from 59 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 35.5 percent Merlot and 5.5 percent Petit Verdot. I decanted the wine for an hour. Medium-bodied, with a gamey, smoky nose followed by dark fruit and subtle floral notes, the wine ends with smooth, vel-

Continued on page 48

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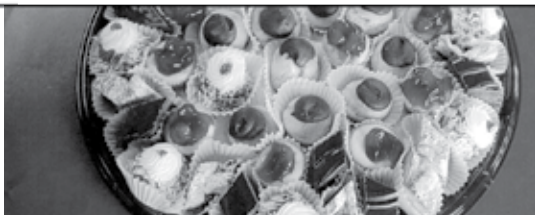
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DRINK

Red, white and green A lot of wine, a little cash

In this occasional series, we'll look at red and white wines, none over \$20 (and most under \$15). As the weather gets colder, we're throwing in a few more reds and cutting back on the whites, which are often served chilled and therefore a little less inviting when you're bundling up against the lower temperatures.

This week we compared cabs — two cabernet sauvignons from California. And in both cases, there's a bit of blending going on.

The first wine we tried was the **2007 Wild Horse Cabernet Sauvignon** from Paso Robles (\$15.99). Vintner's notes for the year before this bottle described it as being 84 percent cab, 6 percent Malbec, 4 percent merlot, 4 percent Petit Verdot and 2 percent cabernet Franc. Why is a seemingly single varietal often a blend? The addition of other grape varieties often helps add depth and complexity to a wine. A bit of Malbec or a bit of Merlot and a wine that seemed aggressive suddenly has layered and subtle flavors. That's what we found here. The wine had a bit of the jamminess you might expect from a Central Coast red but it was well-balanced, with hints of rich



raisin flavors. This wine was quite approachable right out of the bottle, a trait we tend to find from Central Coast wines.

The opposite is true with the **2007 Raymond Family Classic Cabernet Sauvignon** (\$17.99).

This cab was a little bigger and more aggressive when we first opened it than the Wild Horse, but it did mellow out with time and paired well with some chocolate. While this wine is cab, it too is a blend from the "upper" coast — 70 percent Napa cabernet, 24 percent Sonoma and 6 percent Lake County. Just like the Wild Horse used different varietals to balance out the wine, Raymond used grapes from three regions to give the wine a fuller flavor, though to less effect. We got hints of chocolate on the nose and big flavors with lots of tannins as we drank it. As it settled down, the wine seemed more full-bodied and we tasted more of big sour cherry flavors with hints of spice.

"Red, White & Green" is by two wine-lovers, one serious and one casual, who are always on the lookout for a great bottle at a good price. All prices according to the state liquor store (nh.liquor.state.nh.us) unless otherwise stated.

Drink Listings

Special wine tastings

• **WINTER WINE SPECTACULAR** to benefit Easter Seals NH888-368-8880 or visit www.eastersealsnh.org/events to buy tickets to the Winter Wine Spectacular on Thurs., Jan. 27, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Radisson in Manchester. Tickets cost \$60 for the grand tasting, \$100 for the cellar select room

and \$125 for access to both.

• **WINE TASTING** Concord Hospital, 250 Pleasant St. in Concord, 225-2712, will hold its annual Heart of the Grape wine tasting benefit on Thurs., Feb. 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. The tasting raises money for the Genetic Counseling Program at Concord Hospital Breast Care Center, according to a

press release. The event will feature more than 100 wines and tickets cost \$30 per person. For \$75, attend a VIP reception from 5 to 6 p.m. which also includes a Riedel wine glass and samples of the Vineyard Series from J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines. To buy tickets go to www.concordhospital.org.

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vety tannins. Wine that doesn't meet quality standards is relegated to their second label, simply Segla, which accounted for 45 percent of their 2007 production. Available at New Hampshire State Liquor Outlets in Nashua, Manchester and Hooksett.

Broadbent Madeira Malmsey 10 Years Old, Portugal (NH Code 46723) \$56.99

By the time Jefferson was 25 years old, his wine cellar inventory included 15 bottles of Madeira. He maintained a lifelong appreciation for this fortified sweet wine. In fact, at the time of Prohibition the vast majority of Madeira's output was destined for the United States. Prohibition eviscerated the Madeira industry, resulting in most of the vineyards' being uprooted and replaced with more lucrative crops like bananas.

Madeira is made by heating the wine — either in large steel tanks or in the traditional way in wooden barrels stored in hot attics. This practice evolved from the experience of shipping the fortified wine in the overheated holds of ships on transoceanic voyages. In the case of a 10-year Malmsey, the wine has been aged in barrels for a minimum of 10 years. I actually had the chance to see the barrels in attics first hand on a trip to Madeira. Wines are made at varying levels of sweetness

depending on the grapes — from the driest Sercial to the sweetest made from Malvasia grapes. "Malmsey" is a British corruption of "Malvasia" and was definitely Jefferson's preferred style.

One way to discern Madeira is by the deep mahogany color with a slight tinge of green around the edges. This slightly viscous dessert wine has an arresting aroma — nutty, smoky and piney, with baking spices and molasses. It clings to your palate, sweet but with enough acidity to provide balance. Chefs and sommeliers sing the praises of Madeira because it pairs with such a wide range of desserts — fruit, chocolate, custard, ice cream, nuts, and even cheeses. Another virtue of Madeira is that it can cellar-age for decades, if not centuries, and once opened it has a shelf life of many months. One writer said he could open it in July, put it on top of the refrigerator, go away for August and have a glass in October that tasted as good as the first glass. Although good Madeira is relatively expensive, it repays the investment. Available at WineNot in Nashua and The Black Trumpet Restaurant in Portsmouth.

Paulette Eschrich is a dedicated oenophile and former wine retailer who runs a wine book club and conducts custom in-home wine tastings.

POP CULTURE

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Playlist

*A seriously abridged
compendium of recent
and future CD releases*

• You were probably way too drunk to have retained the memory, but a while back on this page I rattled off a few run-on sentences about local Manchester band **Chemical Distance**. There is good news and bad news for the band, the good news being that their guitarist/programmer/producer Otto Kinzel is “committed” to the band through 2011, the bad news being that he is joining Boston darkwave outfit **Lucretia’s Daggers**, which requires him to change his name to “Otto von Kinzel IV,” groupies please update your speed-dial entry. All of us here in local-rock-critic land wish him the very best, and in honor of this occasion I promise never to use the word “outfit” again when referring to a band and hope that my fellow local rock critics will do the same.

• The **JaneDear Girls** are two hot chicks who will probably be the next Shania Twain if Warner Brothers Records still controls the matrix in which we all live, where we grapple with the constant fear of having unfashionable shoes. They play mandolins and fiddles, and use two entire notes in their slutty Shania-like song “Wildflower.” Can you believe that TWO hot girls know TWO musical notes? Darwin is smiling somewhere!

• Augh, remember soccer-mom heartthrob **Ricky Martin**, who became gay just to bum out your sister? His new Spanish-and-English album *Musica + Alma + Sexo* (“Music + Soul + Sex”) comes out, so to speak, on Tuesday, and includes the Maroon 5-ish bubblegum duet with **Joss Stone** “The Best Thing About Me Is You,” a tune that’s totally... what’s a word that makes you think of really wimpy, sugary musical garbage that truckers would find non-manly?

• The world will never run out of wiseass jokes about Christian hard rock bands, which are totally the Devil at work, but with **Red**, you have the added bonus of their wanting to sound like Creed, so my Random Snark Generator just “caused a General Protection Fault at Module 0x01000000” and is currently rebooting, so the only thing I can utter about their horribleness at the moment is a strangled “GAHHHH” sound. Their new LP *Until We Have Faces* will be out next week, if you have some sort of weird complex where you love God and Lucifer and Creed equally.

—Eric W. Saeger

POP CULTURE:

CDS

The Decemberists, *The King is Dead*
Capitol Records, Jan. 18



With the one-off “concept album” experiment from The Decemberists that was 2009’s *Hazards of Love* now in the books, the band turns again to the hay-loft-indie space while claiming that three-minute pop songs are more difficult to put together than conceptual magnum opuses. Were he alive, Bach might not agree, and there was a lot about *Hazards* that was simply too cool for school in a Zeppelinized-steampunk kind of way, but whatever. The yodeling fadeout that closes “Calamity Song” is pressed against the sort of open-window drivetime mid-tempo guitar urgency native to REM, which is where we should mention Peter Buck, who guests on three of the songs. REM can’t be referenced merely in passing, though; pretty much the whole thing is a countrified Fiddle Fiddle that many people will assume is Arcade Fire attempting to resurrect 1980s Atlanta (jump-off single “Down by the Water” flirts dangerously close to ripping off “The One I Love”). Departures include a grog-and-whaling accordion/fiddle break in the wry mining storyteller “Rox in the Box”; a nod to Jimmy Buffett in the sedate, Christmasy “January Hymn”; and some not-unlikeable NASCAR bluegrass (“All Arise”). **A-** —Eric W. Saeger

And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead, *Tao of the Dead*
Superball Music, Feb. 8



One purpose of my taking time out of my otherwise perfectly wonderful life to write about CDs is to encourage my young and old neighbors to shut off oldies Zeppelin radio for just two freaking seconds and try bands like this on for size. New Hampshireites aren’t any different from folks in Florida or Wisconsin or Oregon when it comes to embracing scary new art — as it is in war, when inflicting loudness on your ears it’s better to go with the enemy you know than the one you don’t, so unless you’ve got a hundred subway stories to tell, you’re probably not all that metro, and chances are good that those old loud-ass Jimmy Page guitar solos are comforting to you, like warm socks, generating no great desire for real adventure. But adventure’s good for the soul, you guys, and quit pretending those awful Wolfmother albums are an acceptable compromise. On the other hand, in this case it’d be a disservice for me to infer Trail of Dead’s new concept LP is the greatest invention since fishnet stockings. The sounds spring from ideas Blue Oyster Cult, Offspring, Foo Fighters and Minus the Bear could have had, meaning you stubborn old-schoolers would have to allow for Hello Kitty-fied half-punk whimsy between the walls of noise, which are, I assure you, psycho-heavy at times (“Weight of the Sun”). And there you have it, within a strictly clinical analysis — this is way too good to be compared with the boring crypto-corporate bar-rock of, say, Kaiser Chiefs, but it ain’t ELP either — imagine Foo Fighters trying to write a sequel to *Tommy* while being very mindful of their limits in both technical aptitude and imagination, but a little more interesting than that. And, um, ahem, no guitar solos. Again. Cough, cough. **B+** —Eric W. Saeger

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• And you Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead, *Tao of the Dead*, **B+**

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BOOKS pg51

Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers’ workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Lisa Parsons at lparkers@hippopress.com. To get your author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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• *The Rite*, **C+**



• *The Company Men*, **B**



• *The Way Back*, **B-**



• *No Strings Attached*, **C-**

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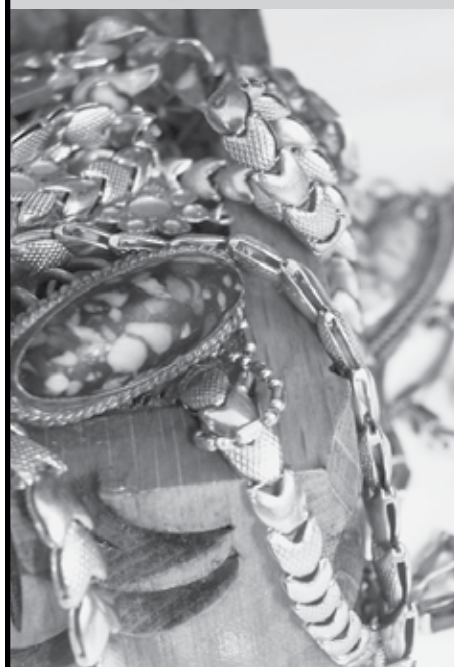
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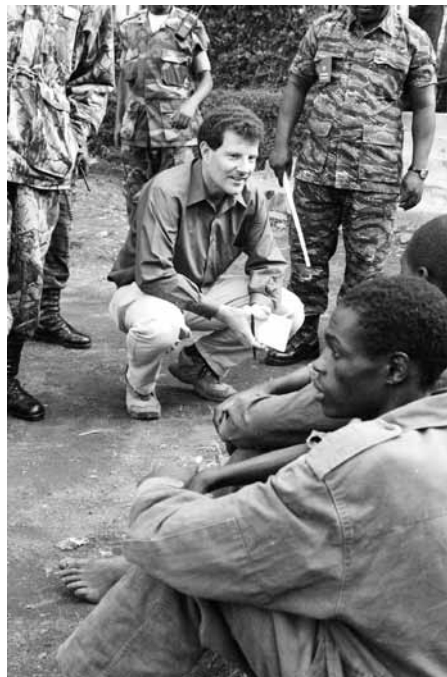
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Nicholas Kristof in the Congo. Courtesy photo.

Adam Coughlin
acoughlin@hippopress.com

Nicholas Kristof believes journalism is in trouble. And Kristof should know. He is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the New York Times. A new documentary, *Reporter*, features Kristof as he tries to expose the atrocities happening in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Along the way, Kristof also shines light into the problems facing modern journalists.

As of 2009, 5.4 million people have been killed in the Congo over the last decade, making it the deadliest conflict since World War II, according to the film's website, www.reporter-film.com. Political instability and war have led to murder, rape and displacement. Yet, Kristof asks: where is the public outrage?

Despite living amidst the Internet revolution, many people are not concerned about the world outside their borders. It is a journalist's job to make people care. The film argues this can only be done through thorough and accurate reporting. Such reporting is on the decline as newsrooms shrink and opinion blogs flood cyberspace.

"Journalists can reach far and wide these days," wrote Eric Daniel Metzgar, the film's director, via e-mail. "Their challenge, as I see it, is not reaching an audience. It is affecting that audience in the most positive way possible, and that requires more than journalist skills. It requires true wisdom and compassion."

Kristof found this is not done by inundating the reader with statistics, because people have gone numb to numbers. Instead he seeks out human stories. In the summer of 2007 (with a film crew in tow), he visited the Congo and traveled through destroyed villages and displacement camps. He even met with the Congo's rebel warlord, General Laurent Nkunda.

His stories can be moving and make the reader question the world. But there is a catch: there needs to be a reader. And those aren't in abundance these days. "The biggest concern, regardless of style, is the way people now expect information," said Jeffrey Klenotic, associate professor of Communication Arts at UNH-Manchester. "There is an attention span

problem with readers. Many don't have the patience to read lengthy narratives about a particular crisis."

"Journalists have a tough job," Klenotic continued. "And it might be more difficult today than back when there were only three major television networks."

That is why it is a bit ironic but also understandable that a film would be made about a print reporter. Metzgar understated the importance of the film. "It just seemed like a good idea, so we gave it a try," Metzgar wrote. "We figured Congo needs all the attention it can get, and Kristof, I think, is worth studying for the impact he's had."

Making the film had an impact on Metzgar, who wrote that being in Africa and seeing and hearing the stories of acute suffering was soul-wrenching.

"But we saw great beauty and resilience too," Metzgar wrote. "The entire experience widened my scope. I'm now more interested in a living a life of service."

Yet, Metzgar fears that our advancements in technology are pulling people away from a life of service into an obsession with themselves.

"Some of us embrace Facebook, Twitter, iGadgets, etc. ... because they so efficiently and fashionably announce, update and bolster our identities on a minute-by-minute basis," Metzgar wrote. "I think it's a farce that they better 'connect' us to each other.... It is the idea of connection, which appears to fill the genuine need for connection, but actually doesn't.... To care about others' plights, we must first see others. To see them requires a stillness of mind, a quieting of the needs of the Me. In this stillness, deep connections can be made and are made."

One fear Klenotic has is that opinion makers will read these investigative pieces and will know even more about what is going on. This could create an even larger information gap between those who know and those who Tweet. Many now believe the Internet is not the great equalizer it was once thought to be.

Yet, Kristof keeps writing and student groups such as the Cultural Events Committee at Colby Sawyer College continue trying to raise awareness. That committee is sponsoring a showing of the film on Monday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. While the film stars Kristof and was directed by Metzgar it was produced by Stick Figure Productions. Ben Affleck is an executive producer.

"After many, many Q&A's after my films, I've learned that you can't predict what any viewer will take away from a film," Metzgar wrote. "Each of us watch films through the filter of our past. No two people ever watch the same film. I can only put images on the screen and sounds in the speakers and hope that something penetrates their heart and in some mysterious way shifts something in them, towards a wider understanding of themselves and the world."

Reporter

When: Monday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m.

Where: Clements Hall at the Curtis L. Ivey Science Center, 541 Main St., New London, www.colby-sawyer.edu, 526-3000

Cost: The event is free and open to the public.

More info: Visit www.reporterfilm.com.

POP CULTURE:

BOOK & LECTURE LISTINGS

Libraries

- **Amherst Town Library**
14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us
- **Bedford Public Library**
3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford 472-3023, bedford.lib.nh.us
- **Concord Public Library**
45 Green St., 225-8670, www.concordpubliclibrary.net
- **Derry Public Library**
64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derry.lib.nh.us
- **Goffstown Public Library**
2 High St., Goffstown, 497-2102, goffstown.lib.nh.us
- **Hollis Social Library**
2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, hollis.nh.us
- **Hooksett Public Library**
1701B Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org
- **Manchester City Library**
405 Pine St. (main branch) and 76 N. Main St. (West branch), 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
- **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum**
18 Highlawn Road, Warner, 456-2600, indianmuseum.org
- **Nashua Public Library**
2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org
- **Rodgers Memorial Library**
194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org
- **Tucker Free Library**
31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471, tuckerfreelibrary.org
- **Wadleigh Memorial Library**
49 Nashua St., Milford, 673-2408, wadleigh.lib.nh.us
- **Wilton Public Library**
7 Forest Road, Wilton, 654-2581, wiltonlibrarynh.org

Bookstores

- **Barnes & Noble**
1741 South Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557; 235 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-5961; bn.com
- **Borders**
76 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 224-1255; 281 DW Hwy, Nashua, 888-9300; borders.com
- **Double Midnight Comics & Collectibles**
245 Maple St., Manchester, 669-9636, dmcomics.com
- **Gibson's Bookstore**
27 South Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com
- **MainStreet Bookends**
16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com
- **River Run Books**
20 Congress St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.com
- **Toadstool Bookshop**
586 Nashua St., Milford, 673-1734, toadbooks.com

Other

- **Manchester Historic Association**
200 Bedford St., 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org
- **New Hampshire Humanities Council**
19 Pillsbury St., Concord, 224-4071, www.nhnhc.org
- **New Hampshire State Library**
20 Park St., Concord, www.nh.gov/nhsl
- **New Hampshire Writers' Project**
SNHU, 2521 N. River Rd.,

BOOKS

In the spotlight



Wine and writers

Several New England authors will be on hand to discuss, sell and sign their books at Zorvino Vineyard's free authors' night on Feb. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. Zorvino is partnering with four New Hampshire libraries, which will raffle signed books, wine and other prizes (check with Sandown Public Library and Plaistow Public Library to see what they have to offer and to purchase raffle tickets). Zorvino is also offering its own raffle: everyone who signs up for the evening on their website will have a chance to win a private wine tasting and tour for up to 20 people. The event will feature a cash bar, and the winery will be open all night for complimentary wine tasting so guests can browse for books, wine and gifts (note: Valentine's Day is the following weekend). Come to the front door of the function facility anytime after 6 p.m. and stay as long as you like until 9 p.m. Admission is free. At press time, the list of authors scheduled to attend included C.A. Almeida, Nikki Andrews, Elena Dorothy Bowman, Bill Burke, Tracy Carbone, Lenny Cavallaro, Ashlyn Chase, Holly Robinson Cookson, Lloyd Corricelli, Cindy Davis, Roxanne Dent, Horst Dornbusch, Elizabeth Dougherty, Mike Girard, Gayle Heney, Christina James, Coralie Hughes Jensen, Julie MacShane, Lucinda Marcoux, Ed Marshall, K.D. Mason, Cathryn McIntyre, Christopher & Nancy Obert, Denise Robbins, J.E. Seymour, Anne Easter Smith, Dan Speers, Paul Wainwright, David A Wylie, and Ann Eastman Young. Zorvino Vineyards is at 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, www.zorvino.com.

Old Meeting House (1773), Sandown, N.H., from Paul Wainwright's book *A Space for Faith*.

In the spotlight

Writers Day 2011

Register now for Writers Day 2011, the 18th annual writers' conference presented by the New Hampshire Writers' Project, to be held on March 5 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester. The keynote speaker will be Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Harding (*Tinkers*). The day will include networking sessions, classes, book sales, exhibits and a literary flash contest. See nhwritersproject.org for complete details and to register. Non-members pay \$195; purchase a membership now to get in to the conference for the \$120 early-bird rate through Jan. 31 or \$135 through Feb. 28. Basic membership costs \$55; some discounts are available.

Manchester, 314-7980, nhwritersproject.org

• Rivier College

420 Main St., Nashua, 888-1311, rivier.edu.

• UNH Manchester

400 Commercial St., Manchester, 641-4101, unhm.unh.edu

Author events

• **DANIEL PALMER** will read and sign his thriller *Delirious* on Fri., Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at B&N in Nashua.

• **CHRIS BOHJALIAN** will sign copies of *Secrets of Eden* on Tues., Feb. 1, at 12:30 p.m. at Borders in West Lebanon and at 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble in Newington.

• **WRITERS ON A NEW ENGLAND STAGE** presents authors interviewed on stage by a New Hampshire Public Radio host at The Music Hall in Portsmouth. Writers scheduled for the rest of the 2010-11 season include Elizabeth Gilbert on Thurs., Feb. 3, 2011; Joyce Carol Oates on Mon., March 28, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$13 per event. Buy in person at 28 Chestnut St., by phone at 433-3100

or at www.themusichall.org.

• **JESSIE CROCKETT** local author will read and sign copies of her latest novel, *Live Free or Die—A Granite State Mystery*, on Tues., Feb. 8, 6:30-8 p.m. at Hooksett Public Library.

• **PATRICIA Q. WALL** will read selections from her books *Beyond Freedom* and *Child Out of Place* and answering questions about the books on Sat., Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. at Manchester B&N.

• **JODI PICOULT** discusses *Sing You Home* on Wed., April 6, at 7 p.m. in the Spotlight Café in the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com, as part of the Writers in the Spotlight series hosted by Gibson's Bookstore. General admission; tickets cost \$6; order online, by phone, or in person at the box office or Gibson's.

Lectures and discussions

• **DISCOVERING NEW ENGLAND'S STONE WALLS** presented by NH author Kevin Gardner

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POP CULTURE:

(*The Granite Kiss*) on Fri., Feb. 4, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the annual NH Farm and Forest Expo at Radisson/Center of NH in Manchester. As part of his presentation, Gardner will build a miniature wall on a tabletop using stones. Admission to this presentation is free. Visit nhfarmandforestexpo.org or call 271-3788.

• **REVOLUTION, REFORM AND PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL CHANGE** by Tom Hayden, founder and director of the Peace and Justice Resource Center, on Tues., Feb. 8, at 6 p.m. at Saint Anselm College's NH Institute of Politics, 641-7000.

• **MARITIME ADVENTURES** is the theme of a series of events at Amherst Town Library. First in the series is "Boston Harbor in Vintage Postcards" presented by Donald Cann & John Galluzzo on Tues., Feb. 8, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Cann works for the National Park service in Boston Harbor. Galluzzo is one of the country's leading Coast Guard historians. Their book, *Boston Harbor*, is part of Arcadia Publishers' Postcard History series. The second event is "Catch of the Day: Seafood and Eat Food with Oonagh" on Tues., Feb. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and the final installment is "The Discovery of the Remains of the Submarine USS 0-9" on Tues., Feb. 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. All events in the series are free and open to the public; register online or by phone to save a seat.

Book discussions

• **UNHM LIBRARY COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP** invites the public to join discussions this spring of books by author Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), English novelist and poet. For info, call the library at 641-4173. Discussions are held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the UNHM library. Jan. 27: *Far from the Madding Crowd*. Feb. 24: *Mayor of Casterbridge*. March 24: *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. April 28: *Jude the Obscure*.

Poetry

• **POETRY SOCIETY OF NH** will host a reading by Tammi Truax on Sat., Jan. 29, at 1 p.m. at Borders Books in Concord. Members will read their work at 11 a.m. All are welcome. Free and open to the public. Join Society members for lunch in the café after their reading.

BOOKS

In the spotlight



Books for sale, cheap

Manchester City Library will hold another \$5-a-bag book sale on Saturday, Jan. 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Winchell Room. Bring your own bags and pay just \$5 for each bag you take into the Winchell Room to fill with the many choices available. The library will have some empty paper bags for sale. There will be more than 10,000 items to choose from — books for all ages and of all genres, DVDs, audiobooks, CDs, VHS tapes, LP records etc. All proceeds go toward programs and projects at the library.

In the spotlight



Vampire cop spy author

Jon Merz (jonfmerz.net) will talk about his novel *The Kensei* on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m., at Gibson's Bookstore, 27 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com. The novel centers on Lawson, a vampire secret agent, as he heads to Japan for some R&R and ninja training and ends up fighting organ trafficking.

In the spotlight



Shakespeare with friends

Each February, Gibson's Bookstore's (27 S. Main St., Concord) Book Club tackles a Shakespeare play. This year they're taking on the Folger Shakespeare Library edition of *King Lear* ("inexpensive and has good notes," says the Gibson's press release). Start reading now and then visit the bookstore on Monday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. for the meeting, which will be half discussion and half dramatic reading and, if it's like previous meetings, "exhilarating and fun," according to Gibson's. See www.gibsonsbookstore.com.

Writers' groups

• **WRITERS' NIGHT OUT** is hosted by NH Writers Project on the first Monday of each month. Seacoast: Common Man, 96 State St., Portsmouth. Central region: The Barley House, 132 N. Main St., Concord. Upper Valley: Salt Hill Pub, 2 S. Park St., Lebanon. No need to RSVP; stop by to connect with other writers. Next night is Feb. 7.

• **SWA WRITING CONTEST** The Seacoast Writers Association is accepting submissions for its 21st

annual writing contest. Deadline for receipt of submissions is Feb. 1. Cash prizes will be awarded in three categories: short story, poetry, and personal essay. Visit seacoastwritersassociation.org. A completed entry form must accompany all entries. Call 778-1740 or e-mail patparnell@comcast.net with questions.

Other

• **LADIES NIGHT OUT** is Thurs., Jan. 27, 6-9 p.m. at Hooksett Public Library, featuring local vendors, refreshments and door prizes.

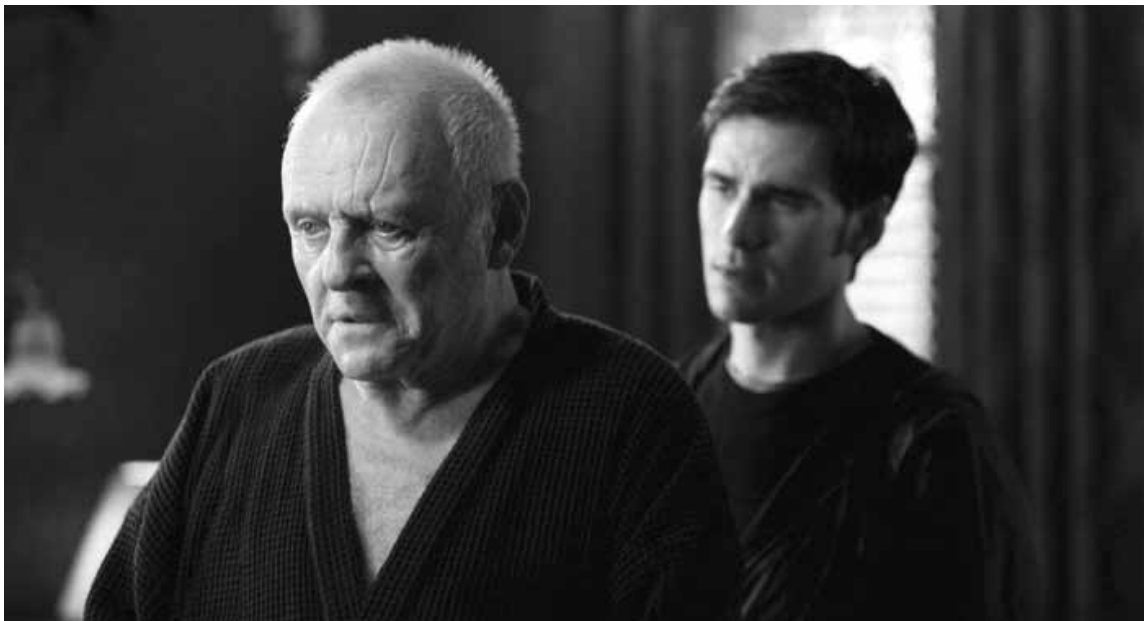
The Book Report

• **A Space for Faith wins award:** The New England Book Festival Award for best photography/art book of 2010 goes to *A Space for Faith: The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England* (reviewed in The Hippo, July 15 — see www.hippopress.com) by New Hampshire photographer Paul Wainwright. The award was to be presented at a ceremony in Boston on Saturday, Jan. 15.

• **Library survey:** The staff and trustees of the Nashua Public Library are asking the public to complete a survey about how they use, or would like to use, the library. The survey is online at www.tinyurl.com/nplsurvey and is available in paper form at the library. This is part of an effort to create a new long-range plan for the library.

• **New Writers in the Loft series:** The Music Hall in Portsmouth, home of the "Writers on a New England Stage" interview series, will be opening a downtown loft space soon and has announced a new series: "Writers in the Loft." The Music Hall Loft will open this spring with performances beginning in April, according to a press release. Writers in the Loft "will feature well-known authors, but the experience will be different — in a smaller, more intimate space" than the Stage series, the press release said. "With their ticket purchase, readers will get a copy of the book and a beverage from the bar. The atmosphere will be casual, with the author signing books and greeting guests after the reading and discussion." The Loft room, at 131 Congress St., will hold up to 120 people, the release said. See www.the-musichall.org/loft. — *Lisa Parsons*

FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ



The Rite

The Rite (PG-13) **An American studying to be a priest takes on the Devil and Mr. Hopkins in *The Rite*, a campy movie about exorcisms.**

Michael Kovack (Colin O'Donoghue) has all sorts of complicated relationships — with his parents (mother is dead, father is difficult), with the church (a priest played by Toby Jones tries to blackmail him into staying in seminary school) and perhaps with God (Michael isn't keen on the priesthood and may blame God for his mother's death). Because "your scholarships can become student loans if you leave the priesthood" is a compelling threat indeed, Michael agrees to be sent to Rome to take part in a special class on exorcisms. (According to this movie, the Catholic Church both doesn't have enough priests to tend to the faithful and also is determined to put an exorcist in every diocese — best joke about this wins a prize.) But class instructor Father Xavier (Ciaran Hinds) suspects that underneath Michael's mopey good looks (think live-action Disney cartoon of the Handsome Prince) beats the heart of a sassypants nonbeliever. So, to school him in the mean streets of demon possession, he sends Michael to Father Lucas Trevant (Anthony Hopkins), a Welsh priest living in Rome who is also an exorcist and a medical doctor. (And an *Ac-tor!*)

Michael can't figure Father Lucas out at first. On the one hand, he seems a bit like a charlatan to Michael, someone "curing" with Latin instead of talk therapy and anti-depression medication, which Michael feels some of the "possessed" need, particularly one teenage girl who is not only possessed but also pregnant, possibly from incest. But on the other hand, Father Lucas is super-intense about all this devil stuff and during a few exorcism sessions the heretofore only-Italian-

speaking girl can also chide Michael in deep-throated English.

So is the Devil real? Is Father Lucas a fraud? The movie sort of wants to have it both ways at first. There is a lot of meta-humor about exorcism — were you expecting head-spinning and pea soup, Father Lucas says to Michael. But this is also an exorcism movie, so we get our irony cake and to eat it with a side of red-eyed demon-mule.

But why a mule? Why, if the personification of all evil is going to taunt a person, does he appear as a mule? Why not a wolf or a shark — or, jeez, it's the freaking Devil, why not a sharktopus? Why possess a teenage girl? Why not possess, say, the head of a major corporation and cause widespread misery by screwing up cell service or making everyone's cable go out on Super Bowl Sunday? This devil is both a secret devil and one who likes big showy possession. Good fantasy needs a mythology and *The Rite* doesn't do a great job of setting up a consistent one. The result is a bunch of things that could be scary if done right (animals with red eyes, for example) presented instead as rather silly (seriously, demon-mule?). For example, the movie's mythology makes a big deal of knowing a demon's name — learn his name and you have great power over him. At one point in the movie, an exorcist is berating the demon for his name — "God commands you to say your name" and all that (though why a command from God works on a demon...sigh). But throughout this entire overwrought scene, the name of the demon is actually written on the wall, right next to the priest, in crazy-person font. So, like, slow your roll, Father Observant, and turn your head slightly to the side. Apparently, like an angry food blogger, a demon loses his power if his identity is known but his means of protecting it is writing it sloppily.

And then there's Anthony Hopkins. Not to give too much away but SPOILER ALERT, if your movie features a knighted British actor who has played Hannibal Lecter in not one but three movies, there will probably be some scenery-chewing Sir Devil moments. Hopkins in the last act gives us an insane frenzy of to-the-rafters actory shenanigans helped along by some truly cheesetastic special effects. It is, face it, what you're paying to see here and you totally get your money's worth.

So is *The Rite* a good movie? No, but it has nice touches, cute freak-outs, sly references and a hilarious but chaste bit of romantic tension between Michael and the requisite hot-journalist role (Alice Braga). Is it fun? Oh, you betcha. **C+**

Rated PG-13 for disturbing thematic material, violence, frightening images and language including sexual references. Directed by Mikael Hafstrom and written by Michael Petroni, The Rite is an hour and 54 minutes long and is distributed by Warner Bros. The movie opens on Friday, Jan. 28.

The Company Men (R) **Upwardly mobile upper-middle-class men deal with the sudden loss of identity, not to mention money, that comes with the loss of their jobs in *The Company Men*, a compelling and occasionally terrifying movie about the Great Recession.**

Because, sure, Ben Affleck and company keep you interested, but the movie also has you considering your own mortgage (what were those terms again?) and trying to figure out how long your savings could last you (how fast could I cancel cable? Do I really need car insurance? How many dinners does one box of Tasteeos contain?). Most ominously, the movie begins not with

some sorrowful score or some dark foreshadowing but with a snippet of the radio show *Marketplace* from the fall of 2008 and then with clips from a variety of news programs, actual clips from actual news to remind you just how freaky late 2008 was.

And it's during this time that Bobby Walker (Affleck) comes to work, happily reminiscing about the morning's golf game, only to learn that the company has started layoffs again. He's troubled to learn that one of his close colleagues has been laid off and then he finds out that human resources official Sally Wilcox (Maria Bello) has summoned him to the conference room to explain his benefits package too. When he returns home that afternoon, it's to a well-appointed Boston suburb where his wife Maggie (Rosemarie DeWitt) doesn't yet realize that their life is about to fall off a cliff.

Bobby is particularly surprised about his firing because he'd been led to believe by division head Gene McClary (Tommy Lee Jones) that his job was safe. But even Gene's favored employee Phil Woodward (Chris Cooper) doesn't seem safe anymore in this climate. Company head James Salinger (Craig T. Nelson) is doing whatever he can to improve the stock price, even if that means gutting the employment rolls.

Simplified, *The Company Men* is the story of what "cutting employment to raise profits" means in human terms. For Bobby, a man in his 30s with a young family, it is the loss of self and success and class status. He keeps putting off a job offer from his brother-in-law Jack (Kevin Costner), a home remodeler, who gives Bobby a fair amount of guff for his white-collar-ness. Bobby meanwhile treats Jack's construction business as a step down, not just economically but in terms of personal worth. Bobby hires guys like Jack; Jack resents guys like Bobby. The men are closer to each other than they realize, but acknowledging that would seem to mean a reconsidering of what it means to be a man for each guy.

For Phil, a man whose résumé includes Vietnam-era military service and who is told by an employment specialist to dye his hair if he wants work, this job might be the last job anyone ever hires him for. Though he's putting kids through college, loss of a job seems less about loss of money for him and more about a loss of purpose. If he can't work, if he can't provide, who is Phil?

Money is not so much a concern for Gene, a man who, even with a big house, a spendy wife and a mistress he meets in nice hotel rooms, probably doesn't need to work anymore. But he has grown up with the company he works for, seen it go from a business building ships in Gloucester to a massive corporation that has its hands in a

variety of industries and is focused on chasing a report that can show profit growth, whether it's real or not.

To show their stories, this movie gets into all sorts of issues of class and generation that you don't normally see addressed on screen. On the periphery are even issues of gender and education. I found myself wishing that I were watching not just a movie but the pilot of a new HBO drama that could really take the time to dig into these different characters and find all their layers. There are facets of the story that by necessity get only minimal attention. Bobby — a guy who came from probably a working-class background and overspent his way into the kind of high-end life that was being sold as "middle class" for a while there — is an onion of fascinating issues and questions all by himself. He has a massive mortgage — one that resets itself even higher shortly after he's laid off — and a Porsche. But the movie no more makes him the guy to blame than it lets him off the hook. His relationship with his wife is a little tense and awful even before he's fired — if that's what success gets you, is it really success? There's so much going on, I was left wanting more.

The Company Men isn't perfect. The characters are all very solid, the performances all very "fine" but no one stands out as delivering Oscar-winning work. And story-wise, there is so much to examine that some pieces of the story have to be wrapped up too quickly and too neatly. But it's the first movie I've seen about the Great Recession that seems to get the Great Recession and what it means both financially and psychologically. **B**

Rated R for language and brief nudity. Written and directed by John Wells, The Company Men is an hour and 53 minutes long and distributed by The Weinstein Company.

The Way Back (PG-13)

A group of prisoners in a Siberian Gulag walk to a different subcontinent to get free from the U.S.S.R. in *The Way Back*, a crazy bubbling cauldron of languages, places and World War II history where luckily for us everyone eventually ends up speaking English.

Janusz (Jim Sturgess) is a Polish soldier who is imprisoned not by the Germans but by the Soviet Army that, thanks to the Soviet-Nazi non-aggression pact, also invaded Poland in September 1939. It is actually Janusz's wife, who is tortured to provide evidence against him of his anti-communist leanings, who gets him sent to Siberia (thus providing

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POP CULTURE:

FILM Continued

Janusz's character with motivation later on — he must return to Poland to forgive his wife). Certain that the gulag will be the death of him, Janusz decides to escape and, through a bunch of hasty plot contrivances, is joined by a gang of other men, the most memorable of whom are Russian criminal Valka (Colin Farrell) and mysterious American Mr. Smith (Ed Harris). As the men walk through the Siberian wilderness, they pick up another gulag escapee — the Russian or maybe Polish Irena (Saoirse Ronan). They are heading for Mongolia but then discover that the communists hold sway there too, so they head to Tibet, where they hope to cross the Himalayas into India. Not only do they not want to be caught by the communists, they have to be careful not to go anywhere allied with the Germans either. So they walk, mostly staying away from towns and villages, through the pine- and wolf-filled wildernesses of Siberia and then around the shore of a massive lake and then through countryside and then into Mongolia, where they quickly end up in the desert, and then into mountains and then Tibet and then the Himalayas. Our heroes didn't really have the opportunity to pack for their trip, but between blizzard mountains and the searing heat of a sandy desert it would have been difficult to know what to bring even if they had a Sports Authority of outerwear at their disposal.

With hints of *Seven Years in Tibet* and *The Great Escape* and *Defiance*, *The Way Back* feels very familiar, like you're watching some movie from 15 years ago that you'd forgotten about. It isn't innovative or particularly arresting in any way — nobody cuts their arm off or plays any recognizable historical characters — but it is a solid story. You get men suffering from hunger and fear and thirst while also occasionally wondering about each other's motivations — it's *Survivor: Gobi Desert*, but far more low-key than any reality show has ever been. Though the movie starts out at a specific time and place in history, it comes to seem almost timeless, with man fighting the elements in the same way he'd have done 50 years earlier or 50 years later. The movie stops being about World War II to such a degree that when a series of title cards wraps up the story of not just the war but the entirety of the Cold War, you almost forget why it's necessary. Oh, right, you think, the character motivations. And even that part of the story is hastily resolved. The journey — dusty, difficult and well portrayed — is what makes this movie entertaining. **B-**

*Rated PG-13 for violent content, depiction of physical hardships, a nude image and brief strong language. Directed by Peter Weir and written by Keith R. Clarke and Peter Weir (from the book *The Long Walk: The True Story of a Trek to Freedom* by Slavomir Rawicz), *The Way Back* is two hours and 13 minutes long and is distributed by Newmarket Films.*

No Strings Attached (R) Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher try to have hot steamy sex but none of those squishy emotions in *No Strings Attached*, a chemistry- and romance-free romantic comedy.

Emma (Natalie Portman) and Adam (Ashton Kutcher) have known each other off and on for years. They met first as young teens in summer camp and have bumped into each other here and there — college, post-college.

Which is how Emma's number ended up on Adam's phone when he one night, post painful breakup, decided to call every girl in his address book until he found one who would sleep with him.

Emma is a busy doctor and likes Adam well enough. Adam is a busy TV show crew member, hoping to become a writer, and also likes Emma, perhaps a little more than she allows herself to like him. She posits that since they are both busy people, instead of trying to have one of those messy icky relationships, how about they just stick to sex. Sex without fighting or pet names or obligations to stick around in the morning. Also, without jealousy or expectation of monogamy. And because they've never ever seen a romantic comedy before, they think it just might work.

I'm not necessarily arguing that Portman and Kutcher could never have chemistry — I'm not even arguing that they could never have chemistry with each other. They just don't in this movie. Here, they seem stiff and hammy, careening from wackiness (Kevin Kline shows up as Adam's formerly famous dad who has a habit of hitting on his girlfriends) to what I think is supposed to be real emotion to sexiness to cutesy hipster dorkiness. Nothing feels genuine or organic. The movie throws in little details — Adam works at a TV show that looks like a cross between *Glee* and *High School Musical* — but doesn't let them pay off. And yet they feel like they've been set up to provide some big punchline — nothing in this movie feels like life, it all feels like a situation waiting for some laugh-track-enhanced comedy.

As not infrequently happens with rom-coms like this, it's the supporting characters that make up the movie's bright spots. Mindy Kaling (who plays Kelly Kapoor and writes for *The Office*) and Greta Gerwig (best known for playing the female lead in *Greenberg*) play Emma's roommates. While they are often left with only weak sassy-girl lines, they are still the best thing about this movie. I wanted to follow Gerwig's character's geeky romance with Jake M. Johnson (who plays Adam's sassy roommate), not the heatless nonsense happening with Kutcher and Portman. And while Ludacris is completely wasted as Adam's auxiliary buddy, I would have been interested in seeing more with him as well.

This movie is actually not as bad as, say, *Life As We Know It*, the latest Katherine Heigl movie, or *How Do You Know*, the most recent rom-com, which was messy and boring and just generally horrible. But I found myself not just bored and wanting the movie to be over but also a little angry at the movie. And I think its smart supporting characters and its stab at addressing modern romance (not the "friends with benefits" idea per se, which is old and has been done as far back as the early years of the Chandler-Monica relationship on *Friends*, but the overall sense that true love is scary) are the reasons why. This movie tries just enough to be something interesting that it gets your hopes up, making them all the more easy to dash. **C-**

*Rated R for sexual content, language and some drug material. Directed by Ivan Reitman and written by Elizabeth Meriwether and Michael Samonek, *No Strings Attached* is an hour and 50 minutes long and distributed by Paramount Pictures.*

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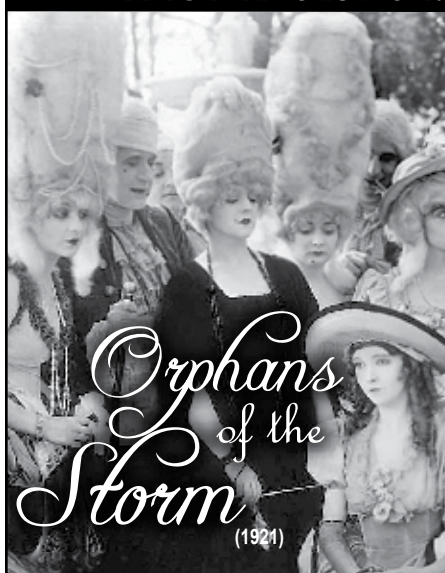
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Chunky's Cinema & Pub Nashua
151 Coliseum Ave., chunkys.com
Chunky's Pelham Cinema & Pub
150 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-7499
Cinemagic Hooksett
1226 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 644-4629, cinemagicmovies.com

Cinemagic Merrimack 12
11 Executive Place Dr., Merrimack, 423-0240, cinemagicmovies.com
Flagship Cinemas Derry
10 Ashleigh Dr., Derry, 437-8800
AMC at The Loop
90 Pleasant Valley St., Methuen, Mass., 978-738-8942
O'Neil Cinema 12
Apple Tree Mall, Londonderry, 434-8633

Regal Concord
282 Loudon Road, Concord, 226-3800
Regal Hooksett 8
100 Technology Dr., Hooksett, 641-3456
Showcase Cinemas Lowell
32 Reiss Ave., Lowell, Mass., 978-551-0055

Movies outside the cineplex

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, www.redrivertheatres.org
• **Black Swan** (R, 2010) Thurs., Jan. 27, at 2:10, 5:40 & 8:05 p.m.; Fri., Jan. 28, through Sun., Jan. 30, at 1:15, 3:45, 6:26 & 8:55 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 31, through Thurs., Feb. 3, at 2:10, 5:55 & 8:05 p.m.
• **The King's Speech** (R, 2010) Thurs., Jan. 27, at 2, 5:25 & 8 p.m.; Fri., Jan. 28, through Sun., Jan. 30, at 12:30, 3:15, 6 & 8:40 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 31, through Thurs., Feb. 3, at 2, 5:25 & 8 p.m.
• **Animal Kingdom** (R, 2010) Fri., Jan. 28, through Sun., Jan. 30, at 1 and 5:45 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 31, through Wed., Feb. 2, at 5:30 p.m.
• **The Social Network** (PG-13, 2010) Fri., Jan. 28, through Sun., Jan. 30, at 3:20 & 8 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 31, through Wed., Feb. 2, at 2:05 & 7:45 p.m.; Thurs., Feb. 3, at 2:05 p.m.
• **The Buddy Holly Story** (PG, 1978) Thurs., Feb. 3, at 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.
• **Joy and the Apocalypse** (NR, 2010) Sat., Feb. 5, at 3 p.m.
• **RED CARPET** Red River Theatres' third annual Red Carpet event will be on Sun., Feb. 27 (the night of the Academy Awards). Attendees are invited to dress up Hollywood-style and walk the red carpet into the theaters where they can watch the award show live on the big screens, enjoy some live music and food from local restaurants and take part in movie trivia and other fun. Tickets purchased before Jan. 25 cost \$50 per person. (After that, tickets cost \$60 in advance, \$75 on the day of the event.)

• **West Branch Community Library**
76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• **Alpha & Omega** (PG, 2010) Fri., Jan. 28, at 3 p.m.

• **Nashua Public Library**
NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, www.nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for the library's film line, a schedule of upcoming movies. Films subject to change. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted in the theater.
• **Cinema Cabaret Film** Friday night at 7 p.m. The last Friday of the month is a family film.
• **Family Film** Saturday at 2 p.m. Children 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
• **World Cinema Film** The third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Series includes features, documentaries, foreign films and indies.
• **Artists on Film** The third Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.
• **The Town** (R, 2010) Fri., Jan. 28, at 7 p.m.
• **Because of Winn-Dixie** (PG, 2005) Sat., Jan. 29, at 2 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL

Main Street in Wilton. wiltontownhalltheatre.com or call 654-FILM.
• **The King's Speech** (R, 2010) Thurs., Jan. 27, through Thurs., Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Plus., Sun., Jan. 30, at 2 p.m.
• **The Fighter** (R, 2010) Thurs., Jan. 27, through Thurs., Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Plus., Sun., Jan. 30, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• **Little Foxes** (1941) Sat., Jan. 29, at 4:30 p.m.
• **Orphans of the Storm** (1921) Sun., Jan. 30, at 4:30 p.m. Silent film with live music accompaniment.

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• **The Beloved Rogue** (1927) Mon., Feb. 7, at 7 p.m.
• **Metropolis** (1927) Mon., April 4, at 7 p.m.
• **Sadie Thompson** (1928) Monday, May 16, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• **Labyrinth** (G, 1986) Wed., Feb. 2, at 1 p.m.
• **Clash of the Titans** (PG-13, 2010) Tues., Feb. 8, at 6 p.m.
• **Iron Man 2** (PG-13, 2010) Wed., Feb. 9, at 1 p.m.
• **Pirates of Penzance** (G, 1983) Wed., Feb. 16, at 1 p.m.
• **The Last Airbender** (PG, 2010) Tues., Feb. 22, at 4 p.m.
• **The Indian in the Cupboard** (PG, 1995) Wed., Feb. 23, at 1 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, www.manchester.lib.nh.us
• **Alpha & Omega** (PG, 2010) Fri., Jan. 28, at 3 p.m.

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• **The Town** (R, 2010) Fri., Jan. 28, at 7 p.m.
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POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

401 Merrimack St., Lowell, Mass., 978-970-4120, www.pollardml.org
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THE MUSIC HALL

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, www.themusichall.org
• **Waiting for "Superman"** (PG, 2010) Thurs., Jan. 27, at 7 p.m.
• **Tiny Furniture** (NR, 2010) Fri., Jan. 28, through Wed., Feb. 2, at 7 p.m.
• **Tangled** (PG, 2010) Sat., Jan. 29, at 2 p.m.

COLBY-SAWYER COLLEGE

541 Main St. in New London, 526-3000, www.colby-sawyer.edu
• **Reporter** (a documentary about the Second Congo War) Mon., Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. at Clements Hall, Curtis L. Ivey Science Center. Free.

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16 Hillside Drive, Rochester, 332-2255
• **Friday night Russian movie discussion** is held the third Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the language center. Russian movies with English subtitles will be shown and followed by discussion and Russian tea. The event is free; register by calling Marina Forbes at 332-2255 or e-mailing marina@anlanguage.org. Upcoming films are:
• **Brother** (1998) Fri., Feb. 18, at 6:30 p.m.
• **The Cranes Are Flying** (1960) Fri., March 18, at 6:30 p.m.

NEWBURYPORT SCREENING ROOM

82 State St., Newburyport, Mass., 978-462-3456, www.newburyport-movies.com
• **Made in Dagenham** (R, 2010) Fri., Jan. 21, through Thurs., Feb. 3: Fridays at 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Saturdays at 3:45, 6:15 & 8:45 p.m.; Sundays at 5 & 7:30 p.m.; Mondays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.
• **Tiny Furniture** (NR, 2010) Fri., Feb. 4, at 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 5, at 4:15, 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 6, at 5:15 & 7:30 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 7, through Thurs., Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

OTHER

• **MYSTERY SCIENCE THEATER 3000** MSTies, rejoice! Joel, the 'bots, Dr. Forrester, Pearl Forrester and TV's Frank, the original cast of *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, will come to the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S.Main St. in Concord, 225-1111, www.ccanh.com, on Sat., Jan. 29, for shows at 7 and 9:30 p.m. The Cap Center will screen cheesy movies for your commenting pleasure. Ticket cost \$25 to \$45 for admission to one show and \$37.50 through \$67.50 for two shows.
• **BOSTON SCIENCE FICTION FILM FESTIVAL** put on by NH-based film critic Garen Daly will begin on Fri., Feb. 11, at Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square in Somerville, with a festival featuring new films, short films and more. On Sun., Feb. 20, through Mon., Feb. 21, the festival will conclude with a 24-hour sci-fi movie marathon. Tickets for the whole festival are \$80, tickets for the marathon only cost \$55. See www.bostonsci-fi.com.
• **SUNDAY AFTERNOON MATINEES** at the Massabesic Audubon Center (26 Audubon Way, Amherst, 668-2045, nhaudubon.org) every Sunday, 1 p.m. Watch nature videos, a different show every week. Free.

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Nite Roundup

Local music
& nightlife news

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

• **Rock the cure:** The Love Hope Strength Foundation was co-founded by Alarm front man and leukemia survivor Mike Peters with a mission of “saving lives one concert at a time.” Five area artists will help raise money for the international effort, which also signs up potential bone marrow donors. See Slang of Ages, Vintage Gold Muse, Andy O’Brien, Christ Dembro and Mark Kopko on Saturday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. at the Jam Factory, 1211 Elm St. in Manchester. Go to www.lovehopstrength.org.

• **Boot scoot:** Every Saturday night, Manch Vegas goes Nashville as the Yard Restaurant becomes Midnight Rodeo, home to live country music from bands like Boston-based True West, a female-fronted quintet recently named NECMA Modern Country Band of 2010. Playing favorites by Faith, Martina, Reba and others, they’re just the ticket to get the line dancing started. See True West on Saturday, Jan. 29, at 9 p.m. at Midnight Rodeo, 1211 S. Mammoth Road in Manchester. Go to www.midnightrodeobar.com.

• **Soaring music:** It’s been 40 years since the New Black Eagle Jazz Band first played on a boat moored at Pier Four restaurant in Boston Harbor. The group brings an eclectic blend of early Dixieland, big band standards and up-tempo jazz, but a blues-centric set is planned for an event they’ve visited since 1980. See the UNH Traditional Jazz Series with the New Black Eagle Jazz Band on Monday, Jan. 31, at the Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way in Durham. Tickets cost \$8 (students/seniors \$6). Call 862-2404.

• **D-O-Double-G:** Snoop Dogg was in the news recently when Cameron Diaz told talk show host George Lopez that she “must have” bought pot from the rapper when the two were in high school. From such humble beginnings the Southern California native rose to become a hip-hop brand name. Dogg’s Lowell appearance comes a few weeks in advance of his 11th album, *Doggumentary Music*. See Snoop Dogg on Friday, Jan. 28, at 9 p.m. at the Tson-gas Center, 300 Martin Luther King Drive in Lowell. Tickets cost \$42; call 978-934-5738.

• **Fitfully yours:** When the Vermont-based Connipion Fits squeeze in an original from one of their two albums, expect a power-pop blend of swagger and finesse belying bandleader/guitarist Stevens Blanchard’s metal kid past with Motorplant. For bar shows, the band plays mostly well chosen “re-makes” — don’t call them covers — from Foo Fighters, Green Day, Weezer and others. See the Connipion Fits on Friday, Jan. 28, at 9 p.m. at Murphy’s Taproom, 494 Elm St. in Manchester. Go to www.murphystaproom.net.

It’s alive!

Mystery Science Theatre 3000 comes to Concord

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

The fruits of the meta-comedy pioneered by *Mystery Science Theatre 3000* are everywhere, from The Daily Show’s news riffing to countless E! snarkfests, not to mention the director’s commentaries found on pretty much every DVD sold.

But Joel Hodgson wasn’t thinking about inventing a new strain of humor when he launched the B-movie-lampooning show, known to fans as *MST3K*, in 1988.

“We really kind of stumbled into it more than anything,” he said recently by telephone (from “an undisclosed location in space” — he doesn’t want fans to know where he lives). “It has to do with the nature of cable ... our show worked because it was super cheap and really long.”

Adds Hodgson, “it was just one of those things where it was a fairly obvious idea to me and it was one that I had never seen before.”

MST3K first aired on a local Minneapolis cable outlet.

“Those 22 shows we did locally, I just find now they’re pretty much unwatchable, but we needed all that time to figure it out,” Hodgson said. “It’s the kind of show that you couldn’t have pitched to New York or Hollywood at the time. They would have said, ‘You want to run a movie and talk over it?’”

But the deceptively simple premise of Hodgson and his robot sidekicks wisecracking over execrable films eventually became the flagship program of Comedy Central, then known as the Comedy Channel. It won a Peabody award in 1993, Hodgson’s last year with the show (Mike Nelson took over as host until the final episode in 1999 on the Sci-Fi Channel, where repeats aired until 2004).

A couple of years ago Hodgson announced *Cinematic Titanic*, which stops at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord for two shows on Jan. 29. Featuring Hodgson, original cast members Trace Beaulieu and J. Elvis Weinstein, and former cast members Frank Conniff and Mary Jo Pehl, it’s a live version of *MST3K*, which hews closely to the original

format. “It’s us approaching another movie, writing it today and riffing on it live,” says Hodgson, who claims the idea came from a Philip Glass concert.

Fans of the show’s frequently obscure humor won’t be surprised to hear minimalist composer Glass mentioned as an influence, along with the Muppets, comedians Steve Martin and Andy Kaufman and pop music from the 1970s. For example, Frank Zappa’s proto-snark with the Mothers of Invention and the Jethro Tull concept album *Thick as a Brick* figured in Hodgson’s imagination. “It was like the counterculture couldn’t make movies,” he explained of the latter. “They had to put everything on vinyl — they were recording artists. But conceptually they were almost like TV shows in a weird way.”

Ultimately, *MST3K* evolved through a combination of instinct and necessity.

“We kind of realized that the best show is where we’re saying things every time there’s an empty space — it kind of became obvious that that’s how we would do it,” Hodgson said. “So I didn’t really see it as a meta-comedy, like I’m going to bend comedy to fit an idea. It was more like a reaction.”

The show’s Comedy Central success spawned other productions that seemed to borrow *MST3K*’s technique of overlaying commentary upon content. VH1’s *Pop-Up Videos* was one of the first, and every time Beavis and Butthead sat down on their ratty couch to watch television, they owed a debt to Hodgson and his crew. Ironically, he was urged to write for both shows. “I said, ‘No, I don’t think so’ — that was very peculiar.”

The show was nominated for a few Emmys, but never won. “I think that might have been a political thing, because we didn’t really have agents from Hollywood working and filibustering for us,” Hodgson says. “But it was really cool that they liked what we were doing.”

They did score a few Cable ACE awards, and in 2007 Time magazine included *MST3K* among their 100 Best Shows of All Time. But it’s his Peabody prize, one of the most prestigious in electronic media, that stands out the



Cinematic Titanic cast. courtesy photo.

most: “It’s a real validation of the show, and it just amazes me,” Hodgson says.

Hodgson recalls a visit with *Simpsons* co-creator Sam Simon. “He’s got this room with these Emmy awards, and then he’s got the Peabody award sitting there. I said, ‘Yeah, I got one of those too’ [and] he said, ‘You know what, that’s the only award that really actually means something’ — that really made me feel good.”

Cinematic Titanic uses a rotating list of films, the best of which evoke a seriousness of purpose falling spectacularly flat. *Rattlers*, a 1976 horror fest starring nerve gassed snakes, is a likely candidate for the Concord shows, but the final choice hadn’t been made at press time.

Hodgson says they steer clear of deliberately bad movies: “We can’t use that, because then you’re making fun of somebody who is trying to be funny and that’s really hard,” he says. Production values are critical — without them there’s too much space to fill. “If you have weird movies, like a Japanese monster movie, [there’s] a lot to look at. The ones that work best are the ones that are trying to deliver a feeling of really being earnest.”

Cinematic Titanic

featuring the original cast of *Mystery Science Theatre 3000* and show creator Joel Hodgson

When: Saturday, Jan. 29, at 7 and 9:30 p.m.

Where: Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 South Main St. in Concord

Tickets: \$25/\$25/\$45 (\$37.50/\$52.50/\$67.50 for both shows)

Info: www.ccanh.com

One insecure puppet

Otto & George are here to shock

By Michael Witthaus
music@hippopress.com

Don’t go to see Otto & George expecting a puppet show. Otto Petersen is no ordinary ventriloquist, and his foul-mouthed foil George Dudley is not a typical dummy. This made them perfect for *The Aristocrats*, a 2005 movie centered on one of the world’s dirtiest jokes told repeatedly. But anyone expecting cute repartee — watch out.

If no one’s gasping when these two are onstage, something’s wrong. With Otto playing the flustered straight man, George unleashes enough profanity-laced invective to make a sailor blush. Many of his best bits

involve anatomy, emissions, effluvium and unnatural acts, and can’t be repeated here for obvious reasons.

“I like to see people shocked,” said Otto Petersen recently by phone from his New Jersey home. “I feel like if I’m not offending someone I’m not doing my job.” There’s one line he won’t cross, however — George delivers every insult. At one unfortunate show a few years back, a heckler rankled him, causing Otto to lose his cool and respond as himself; it’s never happened again.

There’s only room for one character’s vitriol.

“Without conflict, the comedy wouldn’t

work. I have to take an opposing view of George’s hateful racist guy — I’m the Meat-head in the Archie Bunker bit,” he says — but other than that, he doesn’t hold back. “I’m always politically incorrect, and people want to hear me say what they’re thinking and can’t say [and] there are enough degenerates in every city to make it work.”

Early on, he occasionally refrained from launching into certain targets — no race jokes if only one black couple was in an all-white crowd, for example — but later changed to his current no-holds-barred approach. “If I’m editing myself it makes it seem like I mean the jokes in a hurtful way, which I don’t,” he says.

NITE



Otto Petersen (human) & George. Courtesy photo.

“So now I go with it and if they’re offended, so be it. I’m better off not offing anything; they’re there to see me. I’m billed as a triple-X comic. If they’re insulted, they’re retarded.”

Otto & George began what show-biz types call “working dirty” about 25 years ago — “Mostly to get the respect of other comedians,” Petersen says. “When you got to the clubs, they mostly shunned the guys with props. They looked at us as second-class, so I went to bluer stuff to make the comics laugh, treat me better and give me better spots.”

In the late ’70s and early ’80s, Otto & George worked in the streets of New York City. Once, John Lennon watched his performance, tipping him two dollars and telling him to give most of it to George because he was funnier. “It was pretty amazing to meet a Beatle, and the audience wasn’t even aware he was there, they were all looking at me,” Petersen recalls. “He waited for the crowd to disperse and came over and sat with me for about five minutes. I wish I had snapped a photo but there was nobody with a camera around. I used to see him walking around a lot but that was the one time he stopped and watched me — it felt really good.”

New York had a burgeoning comedy scene then. The epicenter was Catch a Rising Star,

a club that played host to many great comics early in their careers — Andy Kaufman, Jerry Seinfeld, Robert Klein.

“It wasn’t as diluted as it is now; everyone was really good and had their own identity,” Petersen says. “There’s so many bad comics today that when you say you’re a comedian it’s not really as impressive-sounding. It was more risky back then [and] there weren’t all these comedy clubs ... you could work for 15 bucks a set in the city, or you were making \$20K a week in Vegas; there was no middle ground. Anybody that got into the game at that point I consider a true comedian because they were risking it all. It wasn’t as easy to step in and start making a living.”

Petersen says he mostly watched and learned.

“I was very intimidated to go on in those clubs. I used to work at smaller clubs rather than go up to Catch. I didn’t think I was as good as those guys at that point,” he says, though he hung around there a lot. “You never knew who was going to stop in. It was great.”

A typical Otto & George set act plays off audience members, but the comic says he’s not interested in anyone else becoming part of the show — one dummy is enough. “The hecklers always think they’re helping. They see a comic who does crowd work and figure all comics are good at that. A guy like Rodney Dangerfield would have people physically thrown out of the building. Not all comics want that — they just want their material to work for them,” he says.

“I don’t get why people would sit up front or want to be involved in the show,” Petersen said. “They get intoxicated, that’s what sets them up. You need to be careful. Sometimes you want to put the heckler away and you go too far and you become the villain. If you just say, how many people want this guy to shut up, the audience will cheer and it will be over and the show can go on.”

A night of adults-only comedy

with Otto & George, Joe Conti and Sean Sullivan

Where: Boynton’s Taproom, 155 Dow St. (3rd floor) in Manchester

When: Friday, Jan. 28, at 8 p.m. (21+)

Tickets: \$17

Info: www.boyntonstaproom.com

CONCERTS

Venues

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts

44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

The Colonial Theatre

95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org

Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College

100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/DANA/

Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom

169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com

Leddy Center

38c Ladd’s Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org

Lowell Memorial Auditorium

East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com

The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center

316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org

The Music Hall

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org

The Old Meeting House,

1 New Boston Rd., Francetown

Palace Theatre

80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Rochester Opera House

31 Wakefield St., Rochester 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com

Stockbridge Theatre

Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com

Tupelo Music Hall

2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com

Verizon Wireless Arena

555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com

Whittemore Center Arena UNH

128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, www.whittcenter.com

- **The Velvetene Playboys** Thurs., Jan. 27, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Cheryl Wheeler** Fri., Jan. 28, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Savoy Brown** Sat., Jan. 29, at 8 p.m., Tupelo

- **Don McLean** Wed., Feb. 2, at 5 & 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **John Mellencamp** Thurs., Feb. 3, at 8:30 p.m., Lowell Auditorium
- **Legends of Rock ‘n’ Blues**

- Thurs., Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m., Colonial
- **Don White and the Loomers** Sat., Feb. 5, at 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Wildvine Jazz** Sat., Feb. 5, at 8 p.m., Boynton’s

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Friday, February 11
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THE PAT TRAVERS BAND



Saturday, Feb. 12
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KEIKO MATSUI



Sunday, Feb. 13
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NIGHT OF COMEDY

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Thursday, February 17
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Friday, Feb. 18
8:00 p.m.
\$27
RS-Tables

MARSHALL CRENSHAW



Saturday, Feb. 19
8:00 p.m.
\$25
RS-Tables

THE FOOLS



Friday, February 25
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Saturday, Feb. 26
8:00 p.m.
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Sunday, February 27
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Nightlife listings Music, comedy & parties

• **JUMP AND JIVE** Rico Barr and the Jump 'N' Jive Review will perform with Yvonne Wollak at the Rockingham Ballroom, 22 Ash-swamp Road, Newmarket, on Sat., Jan. 29, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$14 and can be reserved at www.therockinghamballroom.com.

• **COMEDY BOWL** The Queen City Rotary Club will hold its fourth annual Comedy Bowl, featuring Brad Mastrangelo, Dave Andrews and Dan Crohn, at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral Auditorium, 650 Hanover St., Manchester, on Sat., Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 at the door and tables for six may be reserved in advance for an additional \$35. All proceeds will benefit local youth organizations. For information, call Glenn Krull at 493-0052 or visit www.queencityrotary.org.

• **HOW MEN THINK ... OR DO THEY?** Five Boston comedians, Dave Rattigan, Doug Blay, Chris D., Mark Scalia and Mike Cote, will give insight to the male mind at the Atkinson Resort & Country Club, 85 Country Club Road, Atkinson, on Sat., Jan. 29, at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 and \$55 for a show and buffet ticket. The dinner buffet begins at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at 362-8700.

• **BONE MARROW REGISTRY AND BENEFIT CONCERT** will be held by the Love Hope Strength Foundation at The Jam Factory, 1211 Elm St., Manchester, on Sat., Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. Slang of Ages, Vintage Gold Muse and Andy O'Brien will perform.

• **DANCE AWAY WINTER BLUES** at a fundraiser for Portsmouth Community Radio WSCA 106.1 FM at the VFW Hall, 238 Deer St., Portsmouth, on Sat., Jan. 29, at 7:30 p.m. The Jeannie Daniels Band will perform. Tickets cost \$10 at the door. The event is 21-plus.

• **TIM JENKINS SR. BENEFIT CONCERT** will be held at Pan-away Restaurant, 150 Lafayette Road, Route 1, Rosewood Plaza, Rye, on Sun., Jan. 30, from 4 to 9 p.m. The event will feature a "Jazz Jam Extravaganza" and guests are welcome to bring instruments to participate. Tickets cost \$10. All proceeds benefit Sharon Jones Jenkins. For more information, call 319-4200.

• **JEFFREY GAINES** will perform at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, on Sat., Feb. 5, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$18 and may be purchased at www.rochesteroperahouse.com, or by calling 335-1992.

• **MARDI GRAS** will be celebrated at the Grappone Center, 70 Constitution Ave., Concord, on Sat., Feb. 5, from 6 to 11 p.m. The event will feature dining, dancing, entertainment and a live auction. All proceeds will benefit New Hampshire Catholic Charities emergency assistance for residents in crisis. Tickets cost \$85. To order, contact Judy Roberge at 669-3030 ext. 208, or jroberge@nh-cc.org.

• **JAZZED UP FOR SPORTS** The Manchester Central High School Booster Club will host its "A Little Green for our Sports Teams" fundraiser at the Southern New Hampshire University Hos-

pitality Center, 2500 North River Road, Manchester, on Sat., Feb. 5, from 7 to 10 p.m. The event will feature a buffet dinner and live jazz. Tickets cost \$35. Tickets are available at Blanchet Canadian Rocker in Manchester or by contacting Tim Brown at brownbears@comcast.net.

• **BOURDELEAU FAMILY** will perform at the Manchester City Library, 405 Pine St., Manchester, on Sat., Feb. 12, at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free and doors open at 1 p.m.

• **ALL THAT JAZZ** will be performed by local talent and the Keene Jazz Orchestra at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, on Sat., Feb. 12, at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 and \$10. All proceeds will benefit the Milford High School Music Department.

• **R-RATED COMEDY** Comedian and hypnotist Frank Santos Jr. will perform at the Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, on Sat., Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 and be purchased at www.rochesteroperahouse.com or by calling 335-1992.

• **WINTER GALA DINNER DANCE** to benefit Opportunity Networks and the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce will be held at Alpine Grove Banquet Facility, 19 South Depot Road, Hollis, on Sat., March 5, from 6 p.m. to midnight. The event will feature a social hour and cash bar at 6 p.m. and a family-style dinner at 7 p.m. followed by dancing and a raffle. Paper Moon Ballroom Studio of Merrimack will provide ballroom dancing instructions. Dress is semi-formal or comfortable dress. Tickets cost \$40 at www.opportunitynetworks.org, by calling 673-4360, or at St. Mary's Bank in Milford, Beard & Boyd Insurance in Amherst, Joan Lemire Real Estate in Wilton and Paper Moon Dance Center in Merrimack.

• **LISA LAMPANELLI** will perform at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell, on Fri., March 25, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$37.75 and may be purchased at www.lowellauditorium.com or by calling 454-2299.

• **ROOMFUL OF BLUES** will perform at Windham High School, 64 London Bridge Road, Windham on Fri., April 1, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 and \$40 for a private band reception and reserved seating. Tickets can be purchased at www.ticketstage.com.

Bowling

• **BOUTWELL'S BOWLING CENTER** 152 N. State St., Concord, 224-0941.

• **LAKESIDE LANES** 2171 Candia Road, Manchester, 627-7722, www.lakesidelanes.com.

• **LEDA LIGHTHOUSE** 340 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-4884, www.ledalanes.com.

• **KING BOWLING LANES** 751 Mast Road, Manchester, 623-9215, www.kinglanes.com.

• **MERRIMACK TEN PIN CENTER** 698 DW Hwy., Merrimack, 429-0989, 8:30 a.m. to midnight.

• **STADIUM TEN PIN** Maple Street, Manchester, 625-9656, www.stadiumtenpin.net.

• **TONY'S LANES** 244 Elm St., Milford, 673-6673.

Entertainment

• **MESSAGES FROM BEYOND** Psychic/Medium Lauren Rainbow will connect with spirits at The Middle New Hampshire Arts & Entertainment Center, 316 Central St., Franklin, 984-1901, on Wed., Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$17-\$20 and can be purchased at www.themiddlehnh.org.

Scrabble

• **HOLLIS SOCIAL LIBRARY** 2 Monument Sq., Hollis, 465-7721, for adults every Monday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Hollis Social Library. Invite a favorite Scrabble partner to come with you, or meet new opponents.

• **BEDFORD LIBRARY** Richmond Room, Bedford Public Library, 2 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-2300, second Wednesday of the month, 7-9 p.m.

Trivia nights

• **BARLEY HOUSE** 132 North Main St., Concord, 228-6363, Wednesdays 8-10 p.m.

• **BLUE MERMAID** 409 the Hill, Portsmouth, 427-2583, Mondays 7-9 p.m.

• **BO'S RIVERSIDE** at Milly's, 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, 625-4444, Thursday, 8:30 p.m.

• **CENTRAL WAVE** 368 Central Ave., Dover, 742-9283, Tuesdays 9 p.m.

• **CHEERS** 17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, Fridays 9 p.m.

• **HART'S TURKEY FARM** 233 DW Hwy., Meredith, 279 6212, Thursdays 7 p.m.

• **HEBERT'S** 1500 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, 431-5882, Tuesdays 7 p.m. and Sundays 6 p.m.

• **JJ BOOMERS** 705 Pawtucket Blvd., Lowell, 978-970-3159, Wednesdays 8 p.m.

• **KELLEY'S ROW** 421 Central Ave., Dover, 750-7081, Wednesdays 8-10 p.m.

• **THE KNOT IRISH PUB** 58 Main St., Durham, 868-2959, Mondays 9-11 p.m.

• **MARGARITA'S** 1 Bicentennial Sq., Concord, 224-2821, Tuesdays 8 p.m.

• **MARGARITA'S** 93 Portsmouth Ave., Exeter, 772-2274, Mondays 7 p.m.

• **MARGARITA'S** 1037 Elm St., Manchester, 647-7717, Sundays at 7 p.m. 9 p.m.

• **PATRICK'S PUB & EATERY** 18 Weirs Road, Gilford, 293-0841, Mondays 7 p.m.

• **PEDDLER'S DAUGHTER** 48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, Tuesdays 9 p.m.

• **PRIME TIME SPORTS BAR & GRILL** 620 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-7231, Wednesdays 8-11 p.m.

• **RI RA** 22 Market Sq., Portsmouth, 319-1680, Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

• **SHASKEEN** 909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, www.theshaskeen.com, Mondays 8 p.m.

• **STRANGE BREW TAVERN** 88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292, www.strangebrewtavern.net, Thursdays 8 p.m.

• **WILD ROVER** 21 Kosciuszko St., Manchester, 669-7722, wildrover.com, last Monday of every month at 7 p.m. w/ Frank and Joe.

• **WHIPPERSNAPPERS** 44 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 434-2660, open mike on Mondays at 8:30 p.m.

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Sat, Jan 29
"Lexispalooza"
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Fri, Feb. 4
Vehicle



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John Waite

John Waite

Saturday, March 5 | 8pm

\$75 Stage plus Meet and Greet

\$50 Table seating plus Meet and Greet

\$40 Table Seating, \$30 Bar Seating

John Waite set out to rock on "Rough & Tumble," which will be his first new studio album in four years when it's released on Feb. 22. And he's pleased to say that's what he accomplished on the 11-song set.

"Coming off the back of the live album [this year's 'In Real Time'], there was a certain edginess and an almost punk energy that I've missed for a while," Waite tells Billboard.com. "As I look around me, everybody's so produced. They're on stage playing along to tapes. They don't care. Rock 'n' roll seems to be on vacation. I don't like studio-manicured things. I like imperfection."

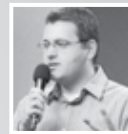
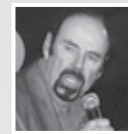
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Friday, January 28 8pm | \$20*
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Friday, February 18 8pm | \$20* The Steve Sweeney Show, Tom Gilmore & Chris Dimitrakopoulos



Saturday, February 12 & 26 | 8pm
Dueling Pianos \$13* (Table & Bar Seating), \$20* (Front Row Stage Seating)



Friday, March 18 10pm
Brothers Donovan
(AKA dReAmSwell) \$10*



Saturday, April 9 8pm | Singer Songwriter Night with Chad Verbeck, Mike Dion, Charlie Christos, Seth Gooby and Jon Aanestad \$12*

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*includes \$3 ticket fee

You may be a lover, but you ain't no Puzzler — RockandRollCrosswords.com by Todd Santos

Across

1. "___ need is a miracle" (3,1)
5. Marching band
10. Killers '___ My Mind'
14. Ice-less parking lot shot
15. Kind of 'Love' to Golden Earring
16. Iconic U2 guitarist
17. Superchunk 'Seed ___'
18. Beatles '___ Feeling' (1,3,1)
19. Iconic jockey John
20. Paul Simon's strumming son (6,5)
23. Where Kate Bush 'Sat'
24. ___ Duke
25. Beatles' response to Who (6,7)
32. ___ 'The Bod' Stewart

33. Festival no-no
34. "Can't you see my faded ___ bursting apart" Meat Loaf
36. Soul singer Arie
39. Long-running UK mag (abbr)
40. Van 'One ___ Rover'
41. Tip jar scraps
42. Played between tours
44. Crue drummer Tommy
45. Spacehog's 1st (8,5)
49. Brought out before opener gets feathered
50. Dave Matthews cohort Reynolds
51. Legendary harp player/singer (5,6)
56. 'Sex On Fire' Kings Of ___
58. Record company/comp album
59. Alanis has a 'Little' one
62. Former Bon Jovi bassist ___ John Such
63. ___ And The Papas

64. "And nothing ___ matters" Metallica
65. Asia '___ Survivor'
66. What manager did before cleaning bus
67. ___ Atomic Dustbin

32. Grech of Blind Faith
35. Talking Heads 'And ___ Was'
37. 'An Eluardian ___' Of Montreal
38. Alicia Keys 3rd (2,1,2)
43. Kind of joint hippie had
46. Badlands '___ In The Dark'
47. 'Miserable' rockers
48. Session musician retort (2,4)
51. New York's Billy ___
52. What REM did at night
53. She ___ In Through The Bathroom Window
54. Groupie "talent"
55. Pink Floyd 'The ___ Song'
56. Had one hit w/'There She Goes'
57. Released 'Time' in '81 (abbr)
60. Festival "ammo"
61. ___ Paul

Down

1. One might march to DMB concert
2. Writer/producer Josh
3. The Icarus Line 'On The ___'
4. Three Days Grace '___ Over' (3,3)
5. Beatles 'Day ___'
6. ___ Against The Machine
7. Tour bus "aroma"
8. Guttermouth song for horses?
9. Fatboy Slim '___ You'
10. Interviewer, perhaps
11. Heavenly Sarah Brightman album?
12. Historic time in music
13. ___ Amitri
21. Festival narc
22. Fakesters ___ Vanilli
25. Hard rockers With ___
26. Fictitious Cruisers frontman
27. Bruce Hornsby's band
28. Grammy-winning R&Ber Joe
29. Boys II Men did it during 'On Bended Knee'
30. 'Enter The Grave' UK metalers
31. What comeback career had done

1/20

N	O	R	T	H	G	A	Y	C	L	A	Y			
O	N	Y	O	U	O	W	E	H	O	N	O	R		
T	E	A	M	S	O	I	L	A	R	G	U	E		
S	N	A	K	E	S	N	L	A	D	D	E	R	S	
T	E	L	E	K	O	N							L	E
S	T	O	R	Y				I	M	A				
D	O	O		Y	A	S	T	A	R	T	E	D		
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T	I	D	E		T	A	D		D	E	L	E	O	

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Written By: Todd Santos

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On the scene

**Band members of the world, unite and take over**

Do you have an upcoming show? Make sure that even if the venue doesn't let us know, it gets listed in the Music This Week by sending us updates of your upcoming gigs. Send locations, dates and times for your upcoming shows to music@hippopress.com. Send information by noon on Monday to get listed for the coming week. Or send us links to your regularly updated website or MySpace page.

... or you, with a club...

Does your bar/restaurant/coffeehouse frequently host musical performances? Send the information to music@hippopress.com along with your address and phone number so we can get you into the Music This Week. And if you regularly update your website or MySpace page, you can send us those links as well. Get the information in by noon on Monday to make the coming Thursday's paper.

... and if you are a music fan...

If you're out on the scene and see a show at a location not regularly listed in the Music This Week, let us know at music@hippopress.com. Our goal is to give you the most complete live music listings in the region each and every week.

Friday, Jan. 28**Allenstown**

Ground Zero: Collisions in Grey and Red, Loaded for Bear, Ark of the Covenant, Cherry Hill

Amherst

Souhegan Christian Church: open mike w/ Music at the Ledge

Bedford

Slammer's: The Paulies

Belmont

Top of the Town: Joe Holiday

Concord

Green Martini: Short Notice
Makris: Jeff Dearborn and the Contoocook Blues Society
Red Blazer: Bob French
Tandy's: DJ

Dover

Barley Pub: Cole Gove
Brick House: Jake Hamel, NGHBRs, Tear Down The Sun, The Vital Might
Kelley's Row: Discount Gigolos
RJ's: DJ Big Pez

Epping

Holy Grail: Old School

Exeter

Shooter's: DJ BiggZ & "D"

Gilford

Patrick's: Those Guys

Goffstown

Village Trestle: acoustic jam hosted by John Erlman

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: Holiday Joe
Village Square: Coverslip

Hampton

Wally's Pub: Leaving Eden

Kingston

1686 House Tavern:

In the spotlight

**Rock and blues**

Fresh from touring with Ringo Starr's All-Star Band, The Edgar Winter Group and The Rick Derringer Band will take the stage for the Legends of Rock 'n' Blues show at the Colonial Theatre, 95 Main St., Keene, on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p. m. Winter, a saxophonist and keyboardist, and Derringer, a guitarist, began working together in the '60s. Aerosmith guitarist and Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame inductee

Brad Whitford, harp player James Montgomery and Concord native Brooks Young will also perform. Tickets cost \$35, \$45 and \$59, at www.thecolonial.org or by calling 352-2033.

Mike Belkas

Bourgeois, DJ Holy Cow

Santesse, DJ Koko P

Laconia

Fratello's: Doug Mitchell

Paradise Beach Club: DJ

Merrimack

The Homestead: Dan Shea

Milford

Pasta Loft: Loose Grip

Nashua

Amsterdam: DJ
Fody's Tavern: Brick Yard Blues

Haluwa: Phoenix
Peddler's Daughter: Emergency Broadcast System

Stella Blu: Troy and Tramac

New Boston

Gravity Tavern: JamAntics

Newmarket

Stone Church: The Horse w/ MMoss, The Migs and BA Canning

Newton

Hen House: DJ

Peterborough

Harlow's Pub: The Skip Philbrick Blues Band

Plaistow

The Dugout: DJ Boo
Sad Cafe: May Brick, Which Ways Up, Pants

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Sub Navy Roamers
Gas Light Co.: Tony

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael

Salem

Black Water Grill: Rob Breton
Jocelyn's: DJ

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Rosie
Honey Pot: DJ

Windham

Jonathon's: karaoke

Saturday, Jan. 29**Allenstown**

Ground Zero: The August Infinity, Clint Lapointe, Where Are The Nine, Billie Thriller

Bedford

Slammer's: Banshee

Belmont

Top of the Town: Joe Holiday

Boscawen

Alan's: Doug Mitchell

Concord

Barley House: karaoke
Green Martini: Salvador Daily
Hermanos: Bryan Thomas
Penuche's: The Ron Noyes Band

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This Week at Strange Brew:

Thursday, January 27
The Paramounts

Friday, January 28
The Love Dogs



Saturday, January 29



BJ Magoon & Driving Sideways

BJ Magoon has been a mainstay of the blues & roots music scene in the New England region for over 30 years, combining heart-felt soulful vocals with a dynamic band with a reputation for prioritizing the groove.



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Tandy's: DJ

Deerfield

Lazy Lion Cafe:
Dwight Phetteplace

Dover

Barley Pub: Bruce Bartlett
Brick House: Bigfoot, Full Body Anchor, The Might
Kelley's Row: Gazpacho
RJ's: DJ

Epping

Holy Grail: Aaron Denney

Epsom

Circle 9 Ranch: Levis n Lace

Gilford

Patrick's: Dave Zangri Duo

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: Two by Two
Village Square: One Fine Mess

Hampton

Wally's Pub: Ript

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Karen Grenier
Whippersnappers: Souled Out Show Band

Manchester

Black Brimmer: Vegas Temper
City Sports Grill: Morse Code, Darrah, Problem Child

Club 313: DJ Bob, karaoke w/ CJ
The Derryfield: The Hit Squad
Fratello's: Craig Fahey
Jam Factory: Mark Kopko, Chris Dembro, Andy O'Brien, Vintage Gold Muse, Slang of Ages
Jillian's: Crunching Monkey
Milly's: The Juice, Dave Crespo's After Party, A Minor Revolution, East is East
Mulligan's: DJ Dave Murphy's: Josh Logan
Piccola: The Bam Burners
Rocko's: Conflagration, Attraction to Tragedy, ill e. gal
Shaskeen: Irish sessions w/ Roger Burridge, The Fiends

Strange Brew: BJ Magoon
Wild Rover: Tore Down House
The Yard: DJ Rich

Mason

Mason Congregational Church: open mike w/ Mike Damery

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Tom Yoder, The Blue Ribbon All Stars

Merrimack

The Homestead: Lachlan MacLearn

Concord

Barley House: Scott Solsky
Brick House: karaoke w/ DJ Erich Kruger
Jimmy's Sports Bar: open mike w/ Denis Patrick & The Gene Sibley Group
RJ's: DJ
Station House: karaoke

Goffstown

Village Trestle: blues jam

Hampton

Wally's Pub: Before the Crash

In the spotlight



Gallagher in New England

Famed comedian Gallagher will bring his Sledge-O-Matic to the Flying Monkey, 39 South Main St., Plymouth, on Saturday, Jan. 29, at 7:30 p.m. Gallagher's show "Looking for Intelligent Life" incorporates social and political commentary. Gallagher has taped 16 cable specials during his career, including *Uncensored Evening* and *Smashing Cheeseheads*. He performs more than 100 concerts a year, yet his Flying Monkey appearance will be his only New England stop during this year's tour, according to a press release. Tickets cost \$30 to \$35 for the "Splash Zone" — and can be purchased at www.flying-monkeynh.com or by calling 536-2551.

Nashua

Fody's Tavern: Max Voltage
Haluwa: Phoenix
Milano's Sports Bar: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D
Peddler's Daughter: Pop Farmers
Stella Blu: Legion of Funk

New Boston

Gravity Tavern: Ballou Magoon Duo

Newmarket

Stone Church: Superfrog w/ Michael Bernier and the Uprising

Plaistow

Sad Cafe: Seven States Away, Stop Is The New Go, Night Of Our Lives, Dylan Ronan, Dear Zim

Portsmouth

Blue Mermaid: Todo Bien
Gas Light Co.: Kevin Burt, DJ JW
The Page: DJ
Press Room: The Molenes
Red Door: Tom Bartlett
Rudi's: Chris Burbank

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Coverslip

Windham

Jonathon's: karaoke

Sunday, Jan. 30

Concord
Hermanos: Joe Deleault
Penuche's: open mike w/ Steve Naylor
Tandy's: karaoke w/ DJ Mark and Kerri

Dover

Barley Pub: Scott Solsky
Brick House: karaoke w/ DJ Erich Kruger
Jimmy's Sports Bar: open mike w/ Denis Patrick & The Gene Sibley Group
RJ's: DJ
Station House: karaoke

Goffstown

Village Trestle: blues jam

Hampton

Wally's Pub: Before the Crash

Kingston

Rick's Cafe & Grille: blues and rock open mike w/ Bobby Freedom

Londonderry

Whippersnappers: The Beloved Few

Manchester

900 Degrees: blues open mike night w/ Tom Ballerini
Cactus Jack's: Sonic Boomers
Element: karaoke w/ DJ Sharon
Jam Factory: acoustic acts
Johnny Bad's: blues jam w/ The Deep Pockets
Mulligan's: karaoke w/ the Spain Brothers
Strange Brew: Tom Keller and John Medeiros Jr.

Meredith

Giuseppe's Restaurant: open mike w/ Lou Porrazzo
Nashua
Milano's Sports Bar: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D

Meredith

Giuseppe's Restaurant: open mike w/ Lou Porrazzo

Nashua

Milano's Sports Bar: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D

Newmarket

Stone Church: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Portsmouth

Daniel Street Tavern: karaoke
Press Room: Chris Humphrey w/ Marc Laforce, Ryan Parker, Keala Kaumeheiwa and Les Harris Jr.
Red Door: Green Lion Crew
Rudi's: jazz brunch w/ Sharon Jones

Stratham

Acoustic Outfitters: acoustic open mike w/ Ellen Carlson

Monday, Jan. 31

Candia
Henderson's Pickin' Parlor: electric rock open mike

Concord

Barley House: Hermanos: Paul Combs
Red Blazer: open mike w/ Matt Langley

Dover

Orchard Street Chop Shop: open mike w/ Dave Ogden

Hampton

La Bec Rouge: open mike w/ Elijah Clark
Wally's Pub: DJ

Londonderry

Whippersnappers: open mike w/ Gardner Berry

Manchester

Mulligan's: live band
karaoke

Meredith

Camp: acoustic open mike w/ Linden Mazurka
Giuseppe's: Lou Parrazzo

Merrimack

The Homestead: Joe MacDonald

Milford

J's Tavern: acoustic open mike

Portsmouth

Press Room: Matt McCabe Trio
Red Door: The Attic Bits, Almanac Mountain

Seabrook

Honey Pot: karaoke

Windham

Jonathon's: karaoke

Tuesday, Feb. 1

Bedford
Slammer's: karaoke w/ DJ Robyn

Concord

Barley House: traditional Irish sessions

Dover

Brick House: acoustic open mike w/ Anthony Vito Fiandaca
RJ's: DJ

Hampstead

Pasta Loft: acoustic open mike w/ Mike Belkas

Londonderry

Whippersnappers: video DJ

Manchester

900 Degrees: acoustic music
Black Brimmer: DJ

In the spotlight



Boston comics

A few of Boston's top comedians — Bob Seibel, Jimmy Walsh and Ryan Gartley — will bring their jokes to the Stone Church, 5 Granite St., Newmarket, on Saturday, Feb. 5, at 6 p.m. Seibel, a comedy veteran, has developed a reputation in New England comedy clubs: you never know what he'll say next. Walsh has worked up and down the East Coast with stars like Lewis Black, Jonathan Katz and Lenny Clarke. Gartley, a Maine native, has performed more than 300 shows over the past seven years and is part of "Live Free or Die Laughing." Tickets cost \$15 and may be purchased by calling 292-3546.

In the spotlight



Keiko Matsui

Keyboardist and composer Keiko Matsui will perform at Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road, Londonderry, on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. At the performance, Matsui, born in Tokyo as Keiko Doi, will perform Japanese smooth jazz and new age music. She has released 20 studio albums and has contributed to many compilations during her 30-year career. Her latest album, *The Road ...*, was released Jan. 25. Tickets cost \$35 at www.tupelolondonderry.com or by calling 437-5100.

Chad
Fratello's: Mark Rozier
Element: karaoke w/ DJ Sharon
Murphy's: open mike w/ Josh Logan, Nate Comp and Paul Costley
Strange Brew: Strange Brew All Stars

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois

Merrimack
The Homestead: Gary Lopez

Milford
J's Tavern: G Man from Mama Kicks

Nashua
Fody's: karaoke w/ Mark Allen
Killarney's Pub: karaoke w/ DJ Bernie D

Newmarket
Stone Church: blue-grass jam

Portsmouth
Press Room: jazz jam w/ Larry Garland
Red Door: PB Kidd

Seabrook
Honey Pot: open mike

Windham
Jonathon's: karaoke

Wednesday, Feb. 2
Antrim
Redneck's: open mike w/ the Boogiemen

Auburn
Holiday's: karaoke w/ DJ Captain Chris

Boscawen
Alan's: open mike

Concord
Green Martini: open mike w/ Steve Naylor
Tandy's: karaoke, DJ

Dover
Barley Pub: MMOSS
Fury's: open mike w/ Paul Chase
Three Chimney's Inn: open mike

Hampton
Wally's Pub: live karaoke w/ Baked Naked

Hudson
Johnny's Pizzeria: karaoke w/ Tony Zzz

Kingston
The Carriage Towne Bar & Grille: Mike Belkas

Laconia
Cactus Jack's: Tony Santesse

Manchester
Fratello's: Sev
Johnny Bad's: open

mike w/ David Thompson and Steven Devine
Strange Brew: David Rousseau

Merrimack
The Homestead: Doug Mitchell

Milford
J's Tavern: Lisa from Mama Kicks
Pasta Loft: open mike

Nashua
603 Lounge: open mike

w/ Kevin Horan
Peddler's Daughter: Revels Glen
Sausage King: open mike w/ John Borlaug
Studio 99: jazz jam

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub: open mike

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid Island Grill: open mike w/ Tom Brown and Duke Mandell

Press Room: Larry Shrek
Red Door: Red on Red w/ Evaredy
Rudi's: Dimitri

Seabrook
Chop Shop: karaoke w/ Matty R
Honey Pot: karaoke

Windham
Jonathon's: karaoke

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, Jan. 27
Hampton
Old Salt: George Hamm and Joey Carroll

Nashua
Fody's Tavern: Alana Susko

Friday, Jan. 28
Manchester
Boynton's: Otto & George, Sean Sullivan

Portsmouth
Sheraton: Live Free or Die Laughing w/ PJ Thibedeau

Saturday, Jan. 29
Atkinson
Atkinson Country Club: "How Do Men Think . Or Do They?" w/ Dave Rat-

tigan, Chris D., Doug Blay, Mark Scalia and Mike Cote

Manchester
Headliners: Ira Proctor
St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral Auditorium: Comedy Bowl w/ Brad Mastrangelo, Dave Andrews and Dan Crohn

Nashua
Margaritas: Live Free or Die Laughing w/ Chris Tabb

Monday, Jan. 31
Concord
Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, Feb. 1
Manchester
Murphy's: live standup

Wednesday, Feb. 2
Manchester
Shaskeen: open mike

Thursday, Feb. 3
Manchester
Jam Factory: The Comedy Machine

Friday, Feb. 4
Manchester
Boynton's: Myg Kaplan, Jim Preusse and Michael Abramson

Saturday, Feb. 5
Concord
Cap Center: Robbie Printz, Rob Steen and Matt D

Newmarket
Stone Church: Bob Seibel and Jimmy Walsh

Monday, Feb. 7
Concord
Penuche's: live standup

Tuesday, Feb. 8
Manchester
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Wednesday, Feb. 9
Manchester
Shaskeen: open mike

Thursday, Feb. 10
Nashua
Fody's: Alana Susko

Friday, Feb. 11
Manchester
Boynton's: Joe List, Tyler Boeh and Millhouse G

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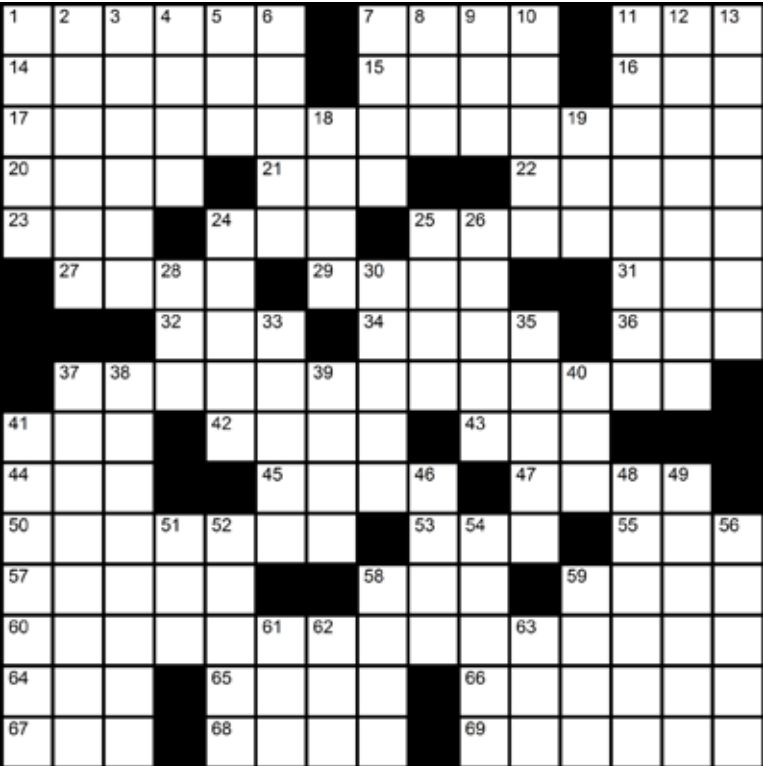
Across

- 1 Magic spirit
- 7 Mrs., in Munich
- 11 Electrical unit
- 14 Some belly buttons
- 15 He clashed with O’Brien
- 16 Hip-hop’s ___-A-Fella Records
- 17 Currency in the Horn of Africa
- 20 Seahawks safety ___ Scott
- 21 Salary limit

- 22 Sleep aid once advertised to “help you get your Z’s”
- 23 ___-OZN (1980s group with the hit “AEIOU, Sometimes Y”)
- 24 “Reach for the ___!”
- 25 Seminole leader
- 27 Carve in marble
- 29 Hard to hold
- 31 Flee the premises
- 32 Took a break

- 43 Kissing in front of everyone, e.g.
- 44 Table scrap
- 45 Steven Tyler’s show, to fans
- 47 “That’s hilarious,” in Internet-speak
- 50 Settled
- 53 Hairy beast
- 55 Lutelike instrument
- 57 Snaggable fabric
- 58 Crocodile’s dinner, often
- 59 Paper towel roll leftover
- 60 Pioneering “hot” jazz guitarist
- 64 Colin Hanks, to Tom Hanks
- 65 Settled
- 66 Yom follower
- 67 Award bestowed by The Queen, for short
- 68 Go fast
- 69 Squeezable African drum

- acter John
- 18 Actor Diggs
- 19 Deli bread
- 24 SeaWorld star attraction
- 25 Bread spread
- 26 Coffeehouse additive
- 28 CBS show that sometimes features weird fetishes
- 30 Prefix before musicologist
- 33 Subject of debate
- 35 Late “Giant” wrestler
- 37 Someone’s gotta do it, it’s said
- 38 One way to leave, in song
- 39 Lymphatic mass
- 40 ___ Paulo, Brazil
- 41 Enemy to remain nameless
- 46 Clinton nominee Guinier
- 48 Time for afternoon tea
- 49 Heartbeat noise
- 51 One billion years
- 52 One of the deadly sins
- 54 Ashton Kutcher show
- 56 Raison ___
- 58 It may be spliced
- 59 Cassette
- 61 Fertility clinic stock
- 62 DVR button
- 63 K leadup



- 34 Prefix meaning “times one trillion”
- 36 Speck in la mer
- 37 Star of “Amistad” and “The Tempest”
- 41 “Sprechen ___ Englisch?”
- 42 Second word of many fairy tales

1/20



Down

- 1 Ram maker
- 2 Fruity concession stand bit
- 3 Contradicting phrase
- 4 Pen ends
- 5 New beginning?
- 6 Self-defeating words
- 7 Go nuts
- 8 “The Crying Game” star
- 9 Curry of “Today”
- 10 Home of the Tar Heels, as sometimes abbreviated
- 11 Handel work
- 12 State capital that means “sheltered bay”
- 13 “Die Hard” main char-

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All quotes are from *Inside Out: A Personal History of Pink Floyd*, by Nick Mason, born Jan. 27, 1945.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) “The guitar sound in the middle section of ‘Echoes’ was created inadvertently by David plugging in a wah-wah pedal back to front.” An inadvertent connection could turn out to be highly successful. Listen for inspiration in music.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) “Just as the partnership had been set up as an eminently equitable arrangement, so too dismantling it was conducted in a civilized manner.” Strive to emphasize equitability in your relationships. The more difficult your partner, the nicer you need to be.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) “I think we all knew that *The Dark Side Of The Moon* was a very good record when we finished it ... but I certainly had no real inkling of its commercial potential, and was as surprised as everyone else when it simply took off.” You’ll be surprised at the success of a recently finished project.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) “I suppose I expected the world to change after being on the telly. Surely we were now real pop stars? But it seemed not.” Ignore your television, or at least verify what it tells you.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) “The

title *Atom Heart Mother* was a last-minute affair. Under pressure to come up with a name we scanned the evening papers for an idea, and saw an article about a woman who had given birth after being fitted with a pacemaker. The headline provided the title.” Let everyday life be a source of creativity.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) “Like a platoon under fire, our band spirit was strengthened by the sheer horror of some of the gigs, and the bombardment of abuse.” Safety in numbers.

Leo (July 23 – Aug 22) “Continuing our policy of recycling anything remotely useful, we quietly gathered up all our out-takes.” What looks like a mistake now may turn out to be valuable.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) “We had a scruffy-looking bunch of blokes ejected from our dressing room only to discover later that they were members of the Band, Bob Dylan’s backing group....” You may be surprised to find out who someone is. Be nice to everyone.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) “Group dinners were the focal point for all band fights, policy decisions and general jockeying for position.” Now would be a good time to join lots of people at a dinner or other group occasion and engage in some lively discussion. Socializing could be very productive, even if it includes some

conflict.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) “We were all aware of the arrival of punk Johnny Rotten kindly sported a particularly fetching ‘I hate Pink Floyd’ T-shirt.” Pay no attention to the young upstarts. Just do what you do best. But it wouldn’t hurt to reinvigorate yourself with some fresh ideas.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) “For the musicians there was a realization that the big tours can also be much lonelier—they only discover your body slumped in the hotel bedroom when you don’t show up on the bus two days later.” You may feel like a small fish lost in a very big pond. Keep swimming and find some fellow fish to hang

SIGNS OF LIFE

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan 19) “‘Of course, you don’t want the world populated only with dinosaurs,’ I said at the time, ‘but it’s a terribly good thing to keep some of them alive.’” Keep a few dinosaurs around. But not in your living room.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		4	1		3			
	5					8		
9				2			3	
4				5				2
		5	7		4	1		
1				6				8
	9			3				6
		3					5	
			8		6	7		

Difficulty Level ★★ ★ 1/27

SU DO KU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

1/20

6	7	9	1	3	2	4	5	8
2	4	3	5	6	8	1	9	7
1	8	5	4	7	9	6	2	3
8	5	6	9	2	1	7	3	4
7	3	1	6	4	5	9	8	2
4	9	2	3	8	7	5	1	6
5	2	8	7	1	4	3	6	9
3	1	4	2	9	6	8	7	5
9	6	7	8	5	3	2	4	1

Difficulty Level ★ 2/21

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Meta News!

Two hundred boredom “activists” gathered in London in December at James Ward’s annual banal-apalooza conference, “Boring 2010,” to listen to ennui-stricken speakers glorify all things dreary, including a demonstration of milk-tasting (in wine glasses, describing flavor and smoothness), charts breaking down the characteristics of a man’s sneezes for three years, and a PowerPoint presentation on the color distribution and materials of a man’s necktie collection from one year to the next. Another speaker’s “My Relationship With Bus Routes” seemed well-received, also. Observed one attendee, to a Wall Street Journal reporter: “We’re all overstimulated. I think it’s important to stop all that for a while and see what several hours of being bored really feels like.”

The Redneck Chronicles

(1) The Key Underwood Memorial Graveyard near Cherokee, Ala., is reserved as hallowed ground for burial of genuine coon dogs, which must be judged authentic before their carcasses can be accepted, according to a December report in The Birmingham News. The Tennessee Valley Coon Hunters Association must attest to the dog’s having had the ability “to tree a raccoon.” (In March, a funeral for one coon dog at Key Underwood drew 200 mourners.) (2) Safety Harbor, Fla., trailer-park neighbors Joe Capes and Ronald Richards fought in December, with sheriff’s deputies called and Capes arrested for assaulting Richards. The two were arguing over whether the late country singer Conway Twitty was gay.

Ironies

• A sculpture on display at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minn., was stolen in December. The piece, by artist John Ilg, consisted of wire mesh over a frame, with 316 rolled-up dollar bills stuffed in the mesh. The piece was titled “Honesty.” (Attitudes have changed in the two years since the piece was first presented, at the Minnesota State Fair, when visitors liked it so much that they added rolled bills to the display.)

• Elected officials caught violating the very laws they have sanctimoniously championed are so numerous as to be No Longer Weird, but the alleged behavior of Colorado state Sen. Suzanne Williams following her December car crash seems over-the-top. Though a strong seat belt and child-seat advocate, Williams was driving near Amarillo, Texas, with her two unbelted grandchildren when her SUV drifted over the center line and hit another vehicle head-on, killing that driver and ejecting Williams’ 3-year-old grandchild, who survived with injuries. A Texas Department of Public Safety report noted that Williams was seen scooping up the child, returning him to the SUV and belting him in.

Compelling Explanations

• Unclear on the Concept: A 41-year-old woman, arrested in Callaway, Fla., in December for beating her husband with a rock, explained that she was angry that he was endangering his health by smoking despite being ill. Said she, “A woman can only take so much.”

• Katrina Camp, 30, was picked up by deputies in September on a Forest Service road near Nederland, Colo., having earlier walked

away from her unclothed 2-year-old daughter, whom she had left to fend for herself in a pickup truck. Camp, however, was candid about the problem: “I suck.” (“You’re a parent,” she told a deputy. “(Y)ou know how it is. Sometimes you just need a break.”)

Latest “Rights”

By his own testimony, John Ditullio is a hateful neo-Nazi who despised his next-door neighbors in New Port Richey, Fla. (a white woman with an African-American friend and a son who was openly gay), but when the son was murdered and the mother attacked in 2006, Ditullio denied involvement, and though he earned a hung jury in his first trial, his retrial was scheduled for November 2010. For each day of the trial, a makeup artist was hired (paid for by the government at \$135 a day) to cover up Ditullio’s swastika neck tattoo and crude-phrease cheek tattoo so as to keep jurors from being unfairly prejudiced. (Nonetheless, Ditullio was convicted in December and sentenced to death.)

Bright Ideas

• The Toronto Public Library began its “Human Library” project in November with about 200 users registering to “check out” interesting persons from the community who would sit and converse with patrons who might not otherwise have the opportunity to mingle with people like them. The first day’s lend-outs, for a half-hour at a time, included a police officer, a comedian, a former sex worker, a model, and a person who had survived cancer, homelessness and poverty. The Human Library actually harkens back to olden times, said a TPL official, where “storytelling from person to person” “was the only way to learn.”

• If Life Gives You a Lemon, Make Lemonade: (1) When Bernie Ecclestone, CEO of the Formula One racing circuit, was mugged in November and had his jewelry stolen, he sent a photograph of his battered face to the Hublot watch company and convinced its chief executive to run a brief advertising campaign, “See What People Will Do for a Hublot.” (2) The

treasurer of Idaho County, Idaho, turned down the November suggestion of local physician Andrew Jones — that more cancers might be detected early if the county sent colonoscopy suggestions to residents along with their official tax notices. The treasurer said residents might find the reminders “ironic.”

Least Competent Criminals

Ouch! (1) Joe Colclasure, 25, was arrested and charged with robbing the bank located inside an Albertson’s supermarket in Palm Desert, Calif., in December. Several employees and customers had recognized Colclasure while he was committing the robbery, but it wasn’t over for him until he accidentally slammed the bank’s door on his hand during his getaway. The pain disabled him long enough so that an employee could hold him until police arrived. (2) Thieves often leave police-trackable trails from the scene to their home, but for alleged shoplifter Michael Barton, 29, of Venango County, Pa., the trail was of his own blood, starting at the Wal-Mart where he had cut himself badly removing razor blades from their packages in order to fit more into his pocket.

Update

Charles Clements, 69, appeared in this space two months ago in a report on his having deliberately shot to death a 23-year-old neighbor whose fox terrier had answered a call of nature on the perfectly manicured lawn of the reportedly obsessive Clements. (According to witnesses, the victim was displaying macho bravado just before the shooting, but Clements admitted he was not under attack when he fired.) On Dec. 29, a judge in a Chicago suburb rejected requests for a 20-year sentence and ordered Clements to serve only four months — out of jail, on probation.

Are you ready for *News of the Weird Pro Edition*? Every Monday at <http://NewsOfTheWeird.blogspot.com> and www.WeirdUniverse.net. Other handy addresses: WeirdNews@earthlink.net, www.NewsOfTheWeird.com and P.O. Box 18737, Tampa FL 33679.

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